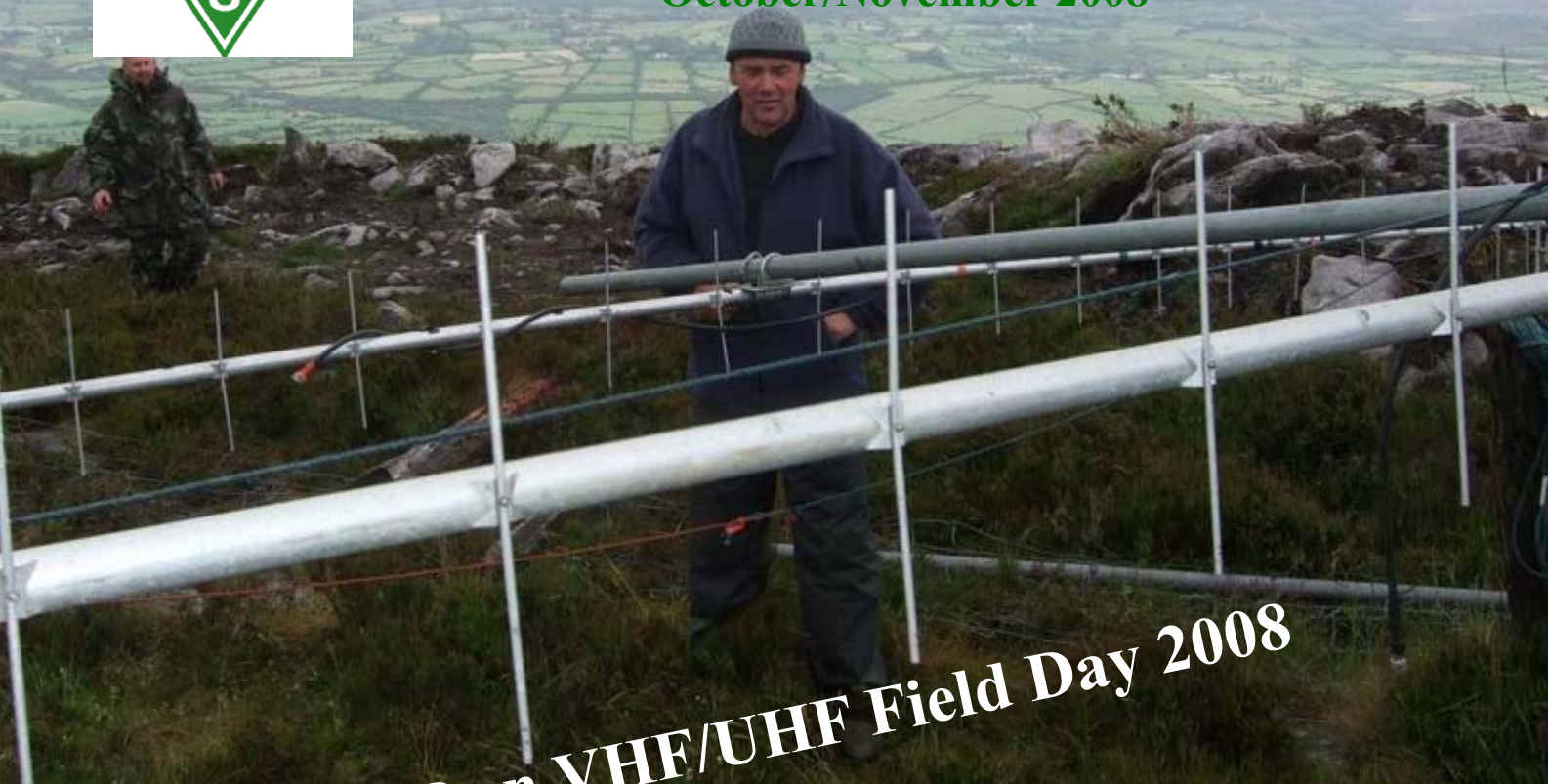




# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
October/November 2008



*EI9E/P on VHF/UHF Field Day 2008*



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## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>			
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM As 1145
<b>Monday</b>			
Cork	2000	145.750	FM Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675	FM Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625	FM Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

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## Committee Members 2008/09 Elected

Thos Caffrey, EI2JD  
Sean Donelan, EI4GK  
Ger McNamara, EI4GXB  
Brendan Minish, EI6IZ  
Mark Condon, EI6JK  
Joe Ryan, EI7GY  
John Ronan, EI7IG  
Seamus McCague, EI8BP  
Ger Gervin, EI8CC  
John McCarthy, EI8JA  
Pat O'Connor, EI9HX

## Co-Opted

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX  
Sean Nolan EI7CD



## Silent Key

### W0XM Mike Eyman

Duane F. "Mike" Eyman, W0XM of Ottawa, Kansas, died on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008, at his home.

Mike was married Kay WA0WOF/EI7HQ, a long standing IRTS member and frequent visitor to EI.

He was born on July 28, 1930, in Topeka and he served in the US Army and Air Force with service in Puerto Rico, Korea, Japan, England plus various stations in the USA.



He attended college after retirement in 1975 from the USAF, graduating from Allen County Junior College in 1977 with an associate of arts degree, and earning a bachelor's degree at the University of Kansas in 1979.

He enrolled in Pittsburg State University's master's program in electronics, and while attending classes he began teaching technical seminars for the American Institute of Professional Education, based in Madison, N.J.,

In 1983, he and his wife started a seminar business, and Mike taught microprocessor troubleshooting and repair seminars in cities across the country and conducted on-site seminars for many companies and government agencies for 11 years.

After serving many years on the Anderson County Planning Commission, he served as Director of Planning and Zoning for Anderson County.

Amateur radio was an important part of his life, and his call sign was W0XM. He was first licensed in 1954 and had licenses in the U.S., Libya, Greenland, Guam, Hong Kong and Okinawa.

He enjoyed being on the air, collecting and repairing equipment and meeting other hams in this country and around the world.

He travelled to Germany, Ireland, Sicily and New Zealand to attend ham radio meetings.

Mike and Kay have had a long association with Ireland and in particular with Breda and Alan Cronin, EI8EM of Ennis. They have exchanged visits on several occasions.

Mike was a very outgoing and social person who loved gatherings of family and friends. He was also a motorcycle enthusiast and enjoyed riding his BMW motorcycle.

Mike was an AF MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System) member for many years and served as chief, affiliate members, while at Richards-Gebaur AFB.

He belonged to the American Legion, VFW, DAV, and was a longtime member of national amateur radio organizations, including the ARRL and QCWA.

He was past chair of Anderson County Republicans.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Kay on her great loss. Sympathy also to his brother Donald, daughter Karen, step-daughter Caren and all his relatives. May he rest in peace.

## Webmaster Wanted!

The role of the IRTS web site includes:

- § Keeping members informed about local and international amateur radio activities
- § Encouraging members to continue their membership and motivating potential members to join
- § Promoting the activities of radio experimenters and the hobby of amateur radio
- § Being a single source of information on matters of interest to Irish radio experimenters which would include, for example, club activities, contest results, repeater frequencies, band plans and forthcoming rallies.

The job of the Webmaster is to maintain and develop the web site so that it fulfils this role in an interesting and accessible way.

IRTS is looking for applications for the position of Webmaster. Like all of the society's officer positions, this is a voluntary position.

Members interested in being appointed Webmaster should indicate their interest to the society's president Finbarr Buckley EI1CS ([buckleyf1@eircom.net](mailto:buckleyf1@eircom.net)) and demonstrate their web skills by supplying links to web sites or web pages which they have developed.

## Congratulations

### EI2P and EI3H

Congratulations to Roderic Mooney EI9P who celebrated his 90th birthday on Sunday October 26th.

He is hail and hearty and just as interested in radio as he was as a teenager. In fact his shack looks as sophisticated as the inside of an aircraft.

He is very up to date with all the modern technology and has a keen interest in digital photography as well.

His call, EI2P is one of the oldest, if not the oldest in the country. Roderick has always been a staunch supporter of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) and is also a Trustee of the Society.

As they say behind every man there's good woman taking care of him, in this case his wife Kate.

Also on October 26th, Colm Ardiffe EI3H celebrated his 80th birthday and as he has been doing for years he read the news on 40 metres as usual on the day.

Congratulations to Colm and we hope enjoyed the celebrations with his XYL Frances and family later that evening.

## Cover Picture

EI9E/P on White Mountain in Wexford

Top: Billy EI7FJ assembles the Yagis

Bottom: John EI2HG getting ready to carve the turkey

See Page 10

# Donegal Amateur Radio Club



The members of the new Donegal Amateur Radio Club at their first meeting in the Mill Park Hotel in Donegal Town.

Pictured seated: Secretary, Paul Sinclair, EI5GTB; Chairman, Jason McGarrigle, EI6GRB; Treasurer, Daniel McGlashin.

Standing: Danny Stinson; Charles McHugh, EI9IT; Laurent Schoumacker, EI9JV; Stewart Stinson; Martin Howley; Dessie Bonner, EI3GWB.

The club plan to meet on the first Monday of the month in the Mill Park at 8pm but full details will be on our website [www.radioexperimenters.com](http://www.radioexperimenters.com).

On Monday night, November 6th, The Donegal Amateur Radio Club had its first meeting in the Mill Park Hotel.

Once we got the formalities out of the way and appointed a chair, secretary and treasurer we had a very interesting meeting of likeminded amateurs.

We also provided information to people wishing to become licensed amateurs and are starting a course to help them achieve their callsign. We gave a general overview of the test, the topics covered and the best ways to go about doing it.

We came to the decision then that the people interested would sit the May/June test, and that we would structure a course towards it.

Paul Sinclair, EI5GTB, then gave a practical demonstration on PSK (Phase Shift Keying), showing some signals being received and describing how the actual protocol worked. The discussion then spread into the various digimodes, with some descriptions on how to decode various types including APRS.

The topic of emergency communications was briefly touched on as well, with the description of some of the efforts of fellow hams in America during hurricanes and other natural disasters.

The topics then came back around to interesting subjects for the soon-to-be hams, QSL cards, The Buro, Q-codes, contesting, logging, general operating procedures and ethics were covered.

Before we wrapped up the meeting SDR (software defined radios) were discussed, along with their advantages and disadvantages over standard radios.

We also tuned into an online SDR and listened in to that for a few moments.

A few descriptions of basic and indeed more advanced antennas were described, to show those with no current HF receivers set up how easy it really is to get onboard.

All in all it was a great success and we will welcome any new members along to our monthly meetings

## Four Ham Radio astro- nauts in next shuttle crew

Space Shuttle Endeavour should by now have docked with the International space station with a main payload of a space-age moving van called Leonardo that is stuffed with new crew quarters and the other equipment needed to enlarge the station's resident crew to six members.



Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE

The equipment includes a filtering system designed to filter wastewater to make it potable

Commander Chris Ferguson and his six crewmates, of whom four are licenced radio hams, were scheduled to lift off to the International Space Station at 7:55 p. m. EST on Nov. 14

Ferguson will be joined on STS-126 by Pilot Eric Boe and Mission Specialists Donald Pettit, KD5MDT, Steve Bowen, Heidmarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, KD5TVR, Shane Kimbrough, KE5HOD and Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE. Magnus will replace space station crew member Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ, who has been aboard the station for more than five months.

She will return to Earth during the next shuttle mission, STS-119, targeted to launch in February 2009.



Heidmarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, KD5TVR

## President of the Amateur Radio Society of India visits IRTS



Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN is President of the Amateur Radio Society of India and also a Director of IARU Region 3. He is on a visit to Ireland where his son Prakash Madhavan EI4HY lives. He paid a courtesy call to the IRTS committee at their meeting in Portlaoise on Saturday November 1st.

Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN is pictured with IRTS President Finbarr Buckely EI1CS.

## Tipperary Radio Group SSB Field Day 2008 - Clogga, Co. Kilkenny



Tommy EI2IT, Paul EI3ENB and Eddie EI3FFB

## The Result of some 'Radio Fun'!

Peter Mac Dougall, EI299 - G7VEW



Last year I mentioned combining my two main hobbies and members might like to see the results, so far?

The picture shows the Amateur Radio equipment at desk level, with the 00 scale model railway above it.

From left to right; Drake R8a Rx, Yaesu FRG 100 with Global ATU and keypad- and the Kenwood TS 450s transceiver in the operating area, while a Hornby Dublo 'Ex LNER' B12/3, in blue livery, hauls a short train of old Triang coaches along the nearest line above. You can also 'spot' a small LNER 0-6-0 tank locomotive and train 'posing' in the background, near to the engine shed.

When the radios are not in use, the green area you'll see in front of the rigs, my base for note-writing and logs etc, folds up in front of the gear and keeps 'little-fingers-out-of-the-way' when visitors come to 'play trains'!

Thanks to six clip-on RF chokes, two for each set of radio power leads, (bought for 'peanuts' at a recent show!) I can operate the radios whilst watching the trains go round - on four ovals of scenic track! The chokes have cured the 'hum' from the model railway transformers and controllers.

I can highly recommend the use of such chokes and the more capacitance you can give them, i.e. the more wire you can wind into them, the quieter things become. The same effect can be had from ferrite rings', but 'life's-too-short' to be removing and then replacing all the plugs when winding the leads! The third hobby is 'amateur photography' so I hope this shows the set-up well!

Now, how can I include my other hobbies? Don't ask!

73 - Peter Mac Dougall, EI299 - G7VEW

## Echo Ireland Download Page

IRTS members who opt to receive this newsletter, Echo Ireland, electronically instead of in hard copy are given a Username and Password which allows them access to the Echo Ireland download page. This page has recently been extended, and now includes all issues of Echo Ireland from January 2001 to date. The use of electronic download also, of course, helps to keep the Society's postage bill to a minimum.

Members who wish to have access to this download page and in future receive Echo Ireland by way of electronic download as an alternative to ordinary mail should contact the Membership Records Officer. Include your call sign and email address in the request, and send it to "memrecords@irts.ie".





# HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to another issue of 'HF Happenings' and what a fantastic few weeks it's been.

Several of the planned DXpeditions did actually grace the bands and if that wasn't enough, there were also several special event operations, IOTAs and of course several contests including the major CQWW (SSB leg).

Combine these with a few sunspots and the world is your oyster, literally!

## VK9DWX - Willis Island. OC-007

The much awaited Willis Island DXpedition team landed on the island at midnight, October 12th, exhausted after over 30 hours of sailing.

The team settled on Mid Islet and this is the smallest Island of the Willis Group, only 300m in diameter, full of scrub and small bushes. It's a rough and extremely lonely place in the midst of the Coral Sea. It is populated by thousand of birds, mostly different kind of boobies. They are just about every where on the island screaming all day and night. They hatch and feed the young birds in nests or on the ground. They are very curious and have no fear of humans at all. They do not run away, but simply stay where they are! But there is plenty of space for all and the team were able to build their antennas and radials around them. But they smell.....!!!!

Thousands of hermit crabs live in sand holes and enter the beaches and bushes by the evening. A few big turtles visited also day to day.

After lugging some 1.5 tonnes of radio equipment to this tiny island, the Bavarian contest team immediately starts the tremendous chore of erecting antennas and setting up station.

By Monday, 13/10/08, they are finally on the air.

On Saturday 25/10/08 and after logging some 95,000+ QSOs, they have to go QRT one day earlier than planned due to high winds and sea conditions.

The team had every intention of making a good appearance for the CQWW contest but unfortunately had to cut it short due to safety.

Mario, DJ2MX is the QSL manager for this operation, although, the team have a OQRS, On-line QSL request System in place. This is where one can request their QSL card via on-line and make electronic payment to get their QSL card mailed

directly to them. The team promise a fast QSL turnaround. QSLs are also ok via the buro and logs should be uploaded to LoTW in due course.

Their web-page (<http://www.vk9dwx.de/qsostatistics/index.php>) shows that 37 unique EI Callsigns made it into their log so congratulations to all concerned.

## Crozet Island, FT5W,

This rare one ranks number 9 on the DX Magazine's 2007 Most Wanted list. The last activity from Crozet was in February and March 2005 by FT5WJ and FT1WK. French operator F4DYW, Flo, will be taking up a government work assignment on Crozet. He will be going there from December 1, 2008 until the end of December 2009. "It isn't a DXpedition!" says Flo. However he has obtained the call **FT5WO** and will be QRV in his spare time. He will have an FT-757GX and is not exactly sure of his antenna at the moment. It could be a dipole. He might have a log search on his Website at <http://f4dyw.free.fr> in 2010. This would obviously be after he gets back home. QSL cards for his activity should go via the French QSL bureau to F4DYW. This is his preference.

However he will accept direct cards via his home call. Hopefully this one will materialize and although it is going to be difficult, especially with just 100W into a dipole, it should certainly be possible from EI across this path at some stage during this 13 month operation.

## Bhutan, A5

Clipperton DX Club members F2VX, Gerard; F5LMJ, Alain; F9DK, Jean-Louis; and G0LMZ, Vincent; will be operating in Bhutan with the special call A5100A (Alpha Five One Zero Zero Alpha) from November 7th to 17th.

The 100 in the callsign represents one hundred years of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The team are including 2 weekends of operation and intend to operate from 3 different sites across Bhutan. 2 of their 3 stations will include amplifiers. This is the same team that aired A52CDX in 2005. They also have a web-page up and running at : <http://www.tuduri.net/f5lmj/A5/a5100a/a5-08-en.htm>

While there they will also visit with ex A51PN, Pradan. QSL via F9DK.

## Easter Island, CE0

Merv, N6NO, will be operating as CE0Y/N6NO from Easter Island (SA-001) from November 7-16, mainly on CW.

Although Amateur Radio is not normally permitted on 30 meters in Chile, he has obtained special temporary authorization to use 10 MHz for this operation.

He will focus on that band, but may also use 7 through 24 MHz. Merv will be running 100 watts and a vertical dipole. QSL via N6NO.

## San Andres, HK0

5K0T will be the San Andres (HK0) callsign for HK3JJH and friends in an operation from November 19 to December 2nd. They will be operating from Bajo Nuevo (NA-132) and Roncador Bank (NA-133), which were formerly separate DXCC entities but are now on the DXCC deleted entities list.

Both of these will count as regular San Andres. HK3JJH will be joined by AA7JV, HA7RY and HA8MT.

JV and RY were the organizers of last year's VK9WWI Willis Island operation. This time they will concentrate on the low bands and will have stations on 160-6m. 5K0T will also be in the CQWW CW contest. HK0/HK3JJH will also be used on the air assumedly before and after the contest.

Bajo Nuevo is a reef 170 miles south of Jamaica and Roncador Bank is another 150 miles southwest of that. The expeditioners currently plan to be on Roncador Bank November 18-21 and Bajo Nuevo November 23-December 2.

5J0T was the initial callsign issued although this was quickly changed to 5K0T to avoid any confusion as 5J0T had already been issued on a previous occasion. QSL via HA7RY and HK0/HK3JJH via HK3JJH.

See [www.5K0T.com](http://www.5K0T.com) for more info.

## Andaman Islands, VU4

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) there is a Ham-Tech 2008 event from October 18-20 presently taking place in Hyderabad.

After this event a group of German and Indian operators will depart for activity in both VU4 and VU7 between October 24th and November 3rd (local Indian time). Actual activity began at 1831Z on October 23rd and will continue through

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)  
1831Z on November 3rd.

Two callsigns will be activated from Port Blair, Andaman Islands. The first is **VU4MY**, operated by an all Indian team from the Circuit House Haddo. Operators include VU2MY, Suri; VU2MYL, Rama (XYL); VU2MYH, Mohan; VU2BL, Bhanu (XYL); VU2YAM, Yamini (XYL); VU2JMA, Jaya (YL); and VU3SQB, Sonia (YL). QSL via DJ7JC.

The other call is **VU4RG**, operated by DL5NSM/VU3NLG, Helmut, and DJ7JC/VU3NLF, Norbert from the Hotel Sinclair. They are running a Yaesu FT-857, K3 and two amps. For antennas they are using 160/80m G5RV, 40m Phased Array (2GP's), 30m GP, 20-10m 5-Band-Spiderbeam, and 15m-GP von DX-Wire. This group are QRV on CW, SSB, PSK and RTTY on 1.8 to 29 MHz.

#### **Lakshadweep Islands, VU7**

**VU7NRO** will be QRV from Hotel Keerthi on Kadamat Island in the Lakshadweep Islands by VU2UWZ, Madhu, and VU2NIS Nisha (XYL). QSL via VU2UWZ direct.

A second group signing **VU7SJ** are operating from the Agatti Beach Resort on Agatti Island, Lakshadweep Islands. Team members for this operation are DL9GFB, Franz; DJ8NK, Jan; DF7TT, Jurgen; VU2JOS, Jose; VU2MTS, Anantha; VU3LMS Lissy (YL); and VU3HEM, Hemanth.

QSL via DL9GFB, Franz Berndt, Heinrich-Heine-Strasse 1, D-18209 Bad-Doberan, Germany.

All four licenses have been issued with special permission granted for activity on 30 meters on 10.100-10.150 MHz.

At time of writing, both islands have already been worked in EI on most bands. Here's hoping that many EIs make it through.

#### **Central African Republic, TL**

5U5U, Chris, goes QRT from Niger by November 9. In the meantime he hopes to be as active as possible. Next he goes to Central African Republic, TL, arriving there in January. He plans to be on SSB from there during his spare time.

For those in the know, Chris, operates only SSB and is rather active. QRV 20m upwards, he has provided many EIs with nice 'band fillers' so another good activation from here is certain.

Callsign has yet to be determined and released.

#### **Figi Island, 3D2**

Look for JA1NLX, Akira, to be QRV as 3D2YA from Mana Island (OC-121), Fiji Islands from November 21-27.

He'll be on CW on 3.5 to 28 MHz.

Watch around the following frequencies: 3505, 7015, 10115, 14035, 18075, 21035, 24895 and 28035 KHz.

You can QSL via JA1NLX either Direct, LoTW or via buro.

#### **Oman, A4**

Another one that is currently gracing the bands at the moment is **A43DLH**.

Members of LARC and of DARC-OV F44 received an invitation from the Royal Oman Amateur Radio Society ROARS, who generously offered accommodation, location and equipment for an all band operation from Oman.

Operating from 2 different sites, this German team began activity on 30<sup>th</sup> October and are currently QRV on SSB, CW and data modes until 11<sup>th</sup> November.

DK7PE is the QSL manager for this operation via Direct or Buro.

The team also intend to upload to LoTW upon their arrival back in Germany.

Again, sincere apologies for this shorter than usual issue. As you can see from the above, there is still a lot happening on the bands, and several large scale activations are constantly being planned.

For the 'casual' operator, don't be disillusioned by thinking that nothing is happening or that there are no conditions.

It most certainly is worth ones while paying a little attention every now and then.

In fact, during CQWW weekend, it was certainly possible to work over 100 different DXCC countries even with a modestly equipped station.

Over the past few weeks, several cycle 24 spots have indeed emerged and as a result of this, there have been daily openings on the higher bands, i.e. 10m & 12m.

Fair enough, one may not work VK or JA but NA, SA, Africa and EU are certainly possible.

To support this, here is an extract from my own log from the past period, starting at the high end this time.

Using a Kenwood TS-850S, 400W into an Optibeam, OBW10-5 worked these following **10M** QSOs: A43DLH, Z29KM, DL9UBF, SP9QMP, UU1AZ, 9L1X, A25/DL7DF, 5U5U, K1IED & PD0AG while **12M** worked : TA3X, Z30U, IS0HQJ, VU7NRO, A92GR, A43DLH, PZ5Z, Z29KM, 4Z5LA,

## **John EI7BA** **First EI Nine Band DXCC**



Congratulations to John Tait EI7BA on being the first EI to achieve Nine Band DXCC.

John is a very active DXer and well known builder and fixer of all things radio.

Have a look at his website at <http://ireland.iol.ie/~bravo/>

ZS6BQI, CE6MZU, LU7HF, PY2WC, D2NX, A25/DL7DF & 9K2YM.

**15M** logged : Z29KM, 5R8FL, 5U5U, VU4MY, P40ZB, CX7CO, A73A, HS0AC, 6Y/DL4JS, TO5DX, 3DA0SS, SU8JOTA, 9L1X, ZD7BG, W3RJ, EL2DX, A71BX, OY9R, ZS6QDW, A92GR, ST2M, A25/DL7DF, TU/DB1DT, 5H3AP & 9K2YM.

**17M** netted : A43DLH, VU4RG, E21EJC, ZA0/I8YGZ, VK9DWW, TO5DX, C57R, 5R8GZ, W1BSA, TY5ZR, 9L1X, DS5FNE, BA8AG, VU2AF & AH2L while **20M** worked : TT8JT, P29NI, 8J1RL, VQ9RD, BD1TCC, A43DLH, AC50/P, 5N/LZ1QK, VU7SJ, PZ5Z, AH0BT, V8AQM, VU7NRO, P40ZB, VK9DWW, V51AS, 9L1X, FO/DJ7RJ, V4/AH6HY & BY1TX.

**Declan, EI9FVB** has been very active over the past period logging some nice DX and adding to his DXCC totals. Using a IC756 pro 3, 400W into a 3el SteppIR, he logged the following contacts.

**10m**: ZC4VJ, UY0CA, 9L1X & 6W1RY  
**12m**: TR8CA, EA6AM, 4Z5LA, PY2WC & 9L1X.

**15m** being his most active band scooped : ET3SID, A25/DL7DF, VU2XO, MM0GPZ, 5U5U, HC2GF, CX8CM, HS0ZHC, 8Q7AK, SU8JOTA, VK6DU, D44AC, E7DX, C49C, ZW5B, LT1F, VY2ZM, HB0/HB9AON, 6Y1V, AY4D,

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

TO4X, VP5DX, LU1HLH, D4C, 5B4AII, FY5KE, A61C, A73A, 9M8Z, YR1C, 6V7M, PJ2T, CX8BBH, FM5AN, 8P5A, VP2EC, OA4WW, CE3DNP & J88DR.

**17m:** A25/DL7DF, ZF2JO, YO9APK, ZC4VJ, SV9GPV, KP2/N1WON, 4K9W, 9L1X, DS5FNE, LA6KOA, TO5DX, C57R, TG9NX & 3DA0DJ.

**20m:** 3DA0TM, 5D0IPY, ET3AA, SX5P, YB0DJ, V4/AH6HY, NL7VX, E20WXA, DU1BP, 9M6XRO, V31BG, EY8/F4EGS, HK1AT, PZ5Z, J88DR, 9M8Z, HS0ZHC, HC2SA, ZP0R, TK9R, V26B, V48M, TO4X, 9Z4CT, VP5DX, CE1W, TI5N & VP2E.

**40m:** MJ/SQ4MP, GM0B, OT5A, S57AL, HB9FBS & HB0/HB9AON

**80m:** MJ/SQ4MP & EJ/G4AXX.

**John, EI9JO** has submitted his log from the past period. Using an IC756Pro2, Hygain vertical and various dipoles he logged these following QSOs :

**15m:** H13TEJ, HC2FN, CT1IZU, 7X4AN, 9L1X, CT3/DL6QT, NQ4I, 9H1SP, VO1CAL, W4UWC, IZ7DPB, E76AQ, ZR1ADI, 4O3A, UN7PBY, LZ26ZA, AO8A.

**17m:** OJ0B, W4UWC, KG4WV, YV5SB, PY2KJ, YN2BT, VA3GA, WD8CCC, F5VIX, K1IED, FJ/TO5DX, **20m** using a Hygain vertical & various other dipoles:

KB1RCS, SM3DSS, GW6YMS, IG9/IW2NOD, W6CCP, SM4RKS, JX9/JKA, HB9MFD, HA8LNN, VO1GWK, KD2SJ, DK9XQ, CU1CB, OH/DF9TM, CT3/DJ6QT, IB0/IK5CRH, WA1NRQ, K1ILLR, K2IZV, JO7CVU, HB9BHD, K1RED, LY2CX/MM, W2YP, EK8PL, YV5JBI, KA2MKM, UA9CJ, TK8R, PT7ZT, OE3KQ, W4UWC, KG4KL, WX3B, W1W, WB4CSW, 9L1X, GB2IWM, K8NY, RK9DM, CK3AT, HQ3Z, W9RE.

On **40m** a Hygain vertical and a 40m dipole worked : DL5O/DRAX (German Naval Sail Training Ship), G7KLJ, M0WGI, IZ2ELV, EA7/DL2MHW, HA8LNN,

**Eoin, EI9O**, also a regular contributor, sends on his log for inclusion.

Running a Kenwood TS-440S into an 80m dipole antenna for all bands he logged these following contacts:

**15m:** PW2D, VO1MP, 5U5U, LZ1MS, LA6KOA, MM0GPZ, OE3KWC, 5D0IPY, RV9WJ, ET3AA, YN2BT, CP6AA, FM1HM, CE6MZU, GI4SNA, TO5DX, PJ2/W1MD & NQ4I.

**17m:** SY8L, TA2MW/7, VR2XMT, K4MQL, DK8IF, RA4FQ, I1JHS,

9H9PA, VU2AF, ZF2JO, K4RWH, PP5KE, EI2FD, ER3CT, UT0EA, SZ7SER, TI8II, YN2BT, LZ2JR, YO3AIS, LZ5F, US5CAQ, 4K9W, 7X/DB1JW, UA0SJ, UA9MHN, A71EM, LZ1YE, W0FF & CU7AAU.

**20m:** 9H9PA, JX9JKA, UU4JXM, K1DG, W9IU, C4I, ES5TV, Z35M, PW2D, 4L0A, RU1A, ZC4LI, T77M, LY5W, 4U1VIC, JW7WCA, PA66AW, ON4HIL, CT3FT, OZ7AM, A71CT, JO7CVU, I2OHO, EW1MM, EI7JN, PY7CPC, 5I3A, CT1EUB, OE7FMH, KG8V, OR4U & HB9SPACE.

All these contacts were made using 100w.

I'd like to welcome **John, EI7IG**, to this column and thank him for submitting his log extract from this past period.

The majority of his log extracts are on **20m RTTY**. This mode has never been covered here before and is most interesting as most of these contacts were made during the recent RTTY contest weekend. As John's log will show, this mode is still proving to be most popular.

Running a Kenwood TS2000X into a 20m inverted V dipole he worked: K3DI, LY1CX, LZ2LP, JW/LB9UE, 7X2EB, SV1BTK, EA7CX, UR7GO, S50R, CS7A, OE9R, 4O3A, UA9CLB, OH2ET, CT9L, EM9F, YO5BBO, LN5O, SV9CVY, VY2LI, W1UE, RW0A, EW1AR, 3V8BB, ES2DJ, 9A5W, ZC4LI, J42T, VY2SS, CN3A, UX4E, UK8AKK, N6AR, OH0/OH2LRE, TF3AM, 5C5W, EA8AH, Z37M, CN2IPA, ER5GB, G3RFX, SM7BHM & TF3PPN.

**Charlie, GI4FUE**, has again submitted his log from this past period and has added a few new ones to his DXCC totals.

Using a Flex 5000, 400W into a 3 element SteppIR he worked these following contacts :

**15m:** ZP6CW, EL2DX, 9L1X, KP2/NY6X, TO5DX, C57R, 6W/DL4JS & ZS08TV.

**20m:** K3L, GW8ASA, KH7XS, V85TTE, 3DA0SS, 5Z4/RW1AU, 9L1X, TY5ZR & CT9500AEP.

Testing out a new vertical he worked these two **30m** contacts : 5D0IPY & 9M2TO.

**40m:** VE7IG/2, EF5BZR, YY5BJE, VE3TES, WA2ETU, 5C5W, YO6DBL & EU8RZ.

**80m:** MS0SCG, HF200Q, SD7VO, WA9CDC, ON5UE, UU2JQ, WD4ELG, PT7VB, ON1708M, LX1DX, OH6R, RD3A, OY3JE & RA4HL.

The above log extracts show what exactly is and can be worked from EI and one does not require elaborate stations to do so.

Operating procedures and ethics are under scrutiny as of late and there have been many recent debates and lectures on how to improve the general operating standards these days. Listening is the key to success, as it will guide you to when and where to call that particular DX station or pile up that you are trying to crack.

A transceiver, modest antenna and a little patience is all that one needs and so back to my opening statement, combine these with a few sunspots and the world is your oyster, literally!

Sincere thanks to all who submitted their extracts, to the Clipperton DX club and to Bernie, W3UR ([www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)) for reference.

Vy 73 till next issue,  
Dave EI9FBB

## Skerries Radio Club Celebrate 25 Years





# IRTS Committee News

## IARU Region 1 Conference

The three yearly Conference of IARU Region 1 will take place in Cavtat, Croatia from 16 to 20 November. The Society will be represented by the President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1Cs and Seán Nolan EI7CD.

The work of the conference is organised through four Committees which deal with Credentials and Finance; General, Administration and Organisation; HF and VHF/UHF/Microwave. The committee meetings are staggered so it is just about possible with two delegates to cover all of the meetings.

Just over 120 papers in about 500 pages of documentation have been submitted for consideration at the conference. There will be about 160 delegates representing between 50 and 60 Region 1 member Societies as well as delegations from IARU Headquarters and the other two IARU Regions.

We will bring you a full report on the Conference in a future issue.

## IARU HQ Changes

In May 2007, Larry Price W4RA confirmed that he would not be available to serve a further five year term as IARU President. The International Secretariat of IARU, which is responsible for making nominations for the position, initiated discussions with the IARU Administrative Council and with the three Regional organisations to identify a suitable candidate.

Following a fourteen month consultation process the International Secretariat has nominated, for ratification by the Member Societies, Tim Ellman VE6SH present Vice President IARU to be the next President and Ole Garpestad LA2RR President Region 1 IARU to succeed him as International Vice President. Both Tim and Ole are very experienced in all of the international aspects of amateur radio and Ole attended both WRC'03 and '07 seeking to help secure and strengthen the position of amateur radio.

## 5 MHz

After a long process of contacts between the military authorities and ComReg the first of the 5 MHz licences issued on Friday week last October 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope by now that all of those who applied have received the necessary permission.

The permission varies the terms and conditions of the licences concerned so as to include three 3 kHz channels with centre frequencies of 5280, 5400 and 5405 kHz. The practice is to use Upper Sideband for voice transmissions on these channels.

As these are centre channel frequencies and the actual dial readout on upper sideband is 5278.5, 5398.5 and 5403.5 kHz respectively i.e. 1.5 kHz on the low frequency side of the centre of the channel. The maximum power allowed is 200 watts. CW stations are encouraged to use the bottom 300 Hz of the channels as this permits the use of the channel for SSB at the same time.

It should be noted that military cadet stations in the UK which use special non amateur call signs are allowed to participate in the 5 MHz experiment in the UK.

EI stations with 5 MHz permissions can not communicate with these stations and may only communicate with other licensed experimenter or amateur stations.

## European Common Allocations Table

In February last as a result of an initiative by IRTS based on a

technical paper by Dave EI3IO, ComReg raised at the CEPT Working Group on Frequency Management WGFM the question of the inclusion of a mention of allocations to the amateur service in the region of 70 MHz in the European Common Allocations table (ECA). There was no mention of these in the table despite the fact that an increasing number of countries were giving operating facilities to the amateur and experimenter stations in that part of the spectrum.

This initiative has now yielded results as the revised ECA finalised and published very recently by the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) includes a new footnote which reads as follows 'EU9 In a growing number of CEPT countries parts of the band 70.0 to 70.5 MHz is allocated to the Amateur service on a secondary basis.' During the consultation period on the draft ECA which ended on 16 August, the IRTS, with the Finnish, British, Czech Republic, Dutch and Norwegian IARU Societies made submissions supporting the inclusion of the footnote and pressing for its retention in the final table.

The new footnote now in the finalised table will assist Societies in CEPT countries which have been reluctant to grant allocations at 70 MHz because up to now there had been no mention of such allocations in either the ITU Radio Regulations or the European common allocations table.

We are very grateful to the Frequency Management side of ComReg for their assistance and cooperation in bringing this initiative to such a satisfactory conclusion

## IRTS AGM 2009

The 2009 Annual General Meeting is being hosted by the Shannon Basin Radio Group and it will be held on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel in Athlone.

The weekend will follow the usual format with a dinner on the Saturday night and a trade show and the AGM on Sunday.

We will carry full details in the next issue.

## Constitution and Rules

A sub-committee is currently examining the Society's constitution and rules and would welcome submissions from members.

## Web Master Vacancy.

Joe Ryan EI7GY who has been webmaster for quite a few years is anxious to step down from the job in an effort to reduce the number of tasks he carries out for the society.

If you are interested have a look at the advertisement on page 3.

## Theory Examination

A new examination agreement has recently been concluded with ComReg. This means that the arrangement under which the IRTS is responsible for setting, organising and correcting the examination for an Experimenter's Licence will continue over the next three years. The new agreement also formalises the long standing arrangement under which the IRTS is responsible for Morse testing.

The agreement between ComReg and IRTS about the theory examination has worked extremely well and is to the benefit of both ComReg and the radio experimenter community. Since the IRTS took over responsibility for the licensing examination three years ago 146 candidates have sat the examination and 90 of these obtained the HAREC qualification which is a pass rate of 62 percent.

# VHF Field Day in Wexford

Again this year the Wexford VHF Group and the East Cork Radio Group joined forces to contest the Thomond Trophy in the Open Section of the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day and also to try for a respectable score when pitted against the very competitive RSGB entries.

The first weekend in July brought horrible weather in the form of gale force winds and heavy rain. Lightning added to the spectacle during the disassembly on Sunday afternoon. The good news was that we remembered the cranberry sauce for our traditional roast turkey this year.

Radio conditions were just so-so.

The best band result for us was on 70MHz where we worked Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Sicily and Portugal in addition to closer neighbours.

The extra countries getting an amateur allocation in this band certainly add to the potential for good scores.

We can be quite competitive on 50 and 70MHz compared to G stations but tend to lose out on the higher bands because of the lower number of contacts we are likely to make.

Our score tends to be boosted by the fact that the average distance per contact for us is often up to 200km more than for G stations.

The convoy of equipment arrived on site on Friday evening and turned to making supper and getting the heat and telly on in the most comfortable spot. The forecast



Operators and visitors enjoying the traditional EI9E/P VHF Field Day turkey dinner on White Mountain.

promised a brief respite from the heavy rain on Saturday morning so no antenna work was done in the rain on Friday night. We all went hammer and tongs at setting up in the mist on Saturday morning and were ready on the air for kick off at 3pm. The equipment worked well with no significant failures. It is our policy to take everything we can with us. This has paid off in the past and we can usually devise a solution to most problems.

In general, two people or one group will provide equipment for and operate one band. 432 and 1296MHz share the one tower and rotator as most 1296MHz contacts are initially made on 432MHz.

The three other bands usually have their own mast or tower, shack and equipment and each is self contained.

The common infrastructure of power and cooking is shared amongst the team.

We use two generators, either of which could supply all of the load.

There was a special touch to the cooking this year with the advice and assistance of the lovely Lorna. We just hope that breakfast in bed on Sunday morning went some way to convince her to join us again in the future!

EI9E/P finished with the second highest overall score in the British Isles and were the leading station on 70MHz.

The results of the RSGB's contest can be seen at <http://www.vhfcc.org/results/08/nfd/nfd.html>





# Little Oak Glass

[www.littleoakglass.ie](http://www.littleoakglass.ie)



**Daireen and Jos EI 1525**

When given a chance by Dave Moore EI4BZ to write a bit on our business and the hobby of Short Wave Listening it brought home to me how difficult it is to write about something one is passionate about without getting carried away.

SWL activity is, when I speak for myself, an addiction to noise.

Often I find myself happily soldering away with in the background the calming and pleasing sounds of hisses, rumbles and distant CW so typical for the lower frequencies, uninterrupted by sports bulletins or hourly bad news reports.

Contrary to the seemingly vast majority of broadcast radio listeners who are happy enough to get their daily dose of foreign soccer hamstring injuries and traffic information on situations hundreds of miles away, I am just very content with a bit of noise from the speakers.

But when the sun dips behind Mount Brandon and the dark hours of the day are bringing in signals from far beyond the horizon, it's time to turn down the volume a bit and tune in to something more distinct.

This by the way is done on a home brew 80 meter direct conversion receiver made a few years back after a memorable publication of an article by the great George Dobbs in Practical Wireless, incidentally re-published in last months issue (Oct. 2008) of PW.

For general listening I use a humble FRG-7700. This together with a 30 metre longwire and homemade ATU for between 3 and 7 MHz is pulling in things nicely. Even when conditions are up and down a bit, there is always something going on. In the worst case of radio experimenters unfriendly propagation conditions, nearby airplane stuff like that on 5.617 MHz or 8.865 MHz or local natter on 11 metres can be quite entertaining.

Since the launch of our stained glass call-

sign plaques at the Limerick Radio Rally the 9th of March 2008 it has been fascinating to see that there is quite some interest in the whole thing of displaying ones callsign.

Helped by our website, a shop window for the world to see, enquiries from all over the globe have come our way. Admittedly, not all of them lead to massive transactions but ideas and suggestions were emailed from all over and people in the radio world are just great in sharing their ideas. That's what I like about amateur radio, it's a crowd that is instantly on the same wavelength, so to speak.

At Little Oak Glass we traditionally concentrate on residential stained glass.

But our interest in fire painted stained glass, restoration and the painting of crests and coat of arms led us automatically to fire painted callsigns.

I always found the number-plate-callsigns that you would come across a bit unexciting. So we use nice fonts and put coloured flowers around the actual callsign plaque which are unfortunately not visible here in black and white in Echo Ireland.

In fact any shape or image is possible on glass. Unfortunately there are no short-cuts in making stained glass.

Any image, lettering or additional colouring is hand painted. This makes for an individual and probably "once in a life time gift".

I'm happy to say that the many hours of practise I had at this over the last months have meant that prices have come down to an acceptable level for most people. Recently special event award and contest trophies and prizes have been added to our collection as clubs and organizers seem to be always looking for something special at least once a year. Clearly it helps being a SWL when people ring and start talking about a field day or DXpedition and we actually know what they are talking about.

The nearly full page news article publication in Practical Wireless (Nov.2008) about our products has been something we are very proud of. Editor of this magazine Rob Mannion G3XFD/EI5IW was extremely helpful and facilitating. A man of great kindness and very strong links with Ireland, Rob was very keen on

explaining about the Lartigue mono railway in Listowel, Co. Kerry but me, being a Dutchman living in Kerry, was not too familiar with this train if I'm honest. But after having gone there and seen this unusual thing on one rail it really started to make sense, so we made something special about it.

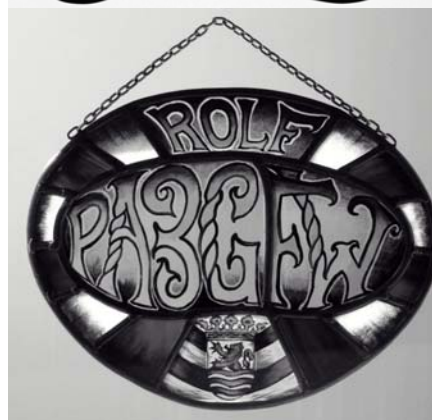
That was how the callsign plaque for G3XFD/EI5IW came about.

If you would like a stained glass Callsign, we are open to any suggestions and ideas to help you with your designs.

For more information write to:

Little Oak Glass,  
Ballygarron, The Spa, Co. Kerry.

Or call: Jos or Daireen on 087-2974748  
[www.littleoakglass.ie](http://www.littleoakglass.ie)



## Paul O’Kane EI5DI presented with the Al Slater, G3FXB memorial Award



The Al Slater, G3FXB, Memorial Award is presented once a year, at the discretion of the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC), to an individual, group or society that has, in the judgement of the committee, made an outstanding contribution to the hobby that reflects the attitudes and approach of Al Slater.

*The First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) is a British based CW club, originally founded in 1938. The club has a limited membership of 500 world-wide. The club strives for excellence in operating, combined with a social way of life, both on the air and together with family and members at events throughout the world. EI members of FOC are Colum EI3CP and Declan EI6FR. Listen and chat to FOC members around 25kHz up from band edges.*

*The following is the text of the acceptance speech made by Paul EI5DI to the FOC. Do you agree or disagree?*

Thank you Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and fellow CW enthusiasts. Mr President, may I congratulate you on your elevation to the presidency, and also the First-Class CW Operators' Club on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a remarkable milestone. I need hardly tell you how much this award means to me, especially when I see the list of previous recipients.

I’ve always liked awards – for a long time I imagined that some day I’d be an Olympic champion, waving from an open-top bus to the cheering crowds along O’Connell Street. Of course, my options are more limited these days. Anything that needs running, jumping or lifting is probably out of the question. Perhaps I’ll try pistol shooting. Apart from a little practice, all you need

is a steady hand and a good eye – and I have two of each.

If things don’t work out in the Olympics, there’s always the Nobel prize – but which one? Chemistry or Physics might need a bit of work, and Economics is hardly the flavour of the month. The Peace Prize used to be a convenient option for Ireland, except that peace has already broken out there – so maybe the time isn’t right.

In any case, there are hundreds of Olympic and Nobel medallists, whereas the Al Slater memorial is a lot more exclusive, even if it doesn’t pay quite as much.

I met Al G3FXB only once. It was at the 1991 HF Convention in Daventry. Al gave a presentation on contesting, and the one thing I remember is that he didn’t appreciate anything that might slow the QSO rate; he didn’t like anyone wishing him “good luck in the contest” – luck had

little to do with it. In early 1992, I sent Al a copy of SD – I hoped he would try it and maybe endorse it. It was no use, he logged everything by hand. I sometimes wonder how long he would have held out against computers in contesting, and what he would have made of the internet, but we will never know.

The internet has changed everything. Amateur radio used to be straightforward. What set it apart from all other radio services was that amateurs accepted they wouldn’t always get through, or complete a QSO, never mind start one. For the other services, let’s call them professional radio, failure is not acceptable – either there will be hell to pay, or someone will not pay.

Amateur radio, and especially CW, is as much an art as a skill, and we take our chances with the elements, as do other enthusiasts like fly-fishermen or sailors. Imagine going to sea in a boat with no engine, and throwing yourself at the mercy of the wind and waves. Who in their right mind would do something so foolish? Yet thousands do, they even call it fun. They go sailing for its own sake, and happily put up with the inconveniences. They know that if they resort to new technology and get a tow or use an engine, they may still be boating but they are no longer sailing. For all human activities, certain technologies are inappropriate once they change the fundamental nature of the activity – the very thing that gives it its name.

But what is happening now in amateur radio? We expect national societies to be self-regulating and to always do what’s best for us.

We know that building societies lost the run of themselves when they decided to become banks, and play financial hardball. We have seen how financial deregulation can lead to chaos. Anyone who opposed new and exciting products was held to be against progress. Principles were cast out in the pursuit of ever-greater profits and dividends – the system must be right, wasn’t everyone winning? Well, now we know it was an illusion, because they ignored fundamentals.

I believe something similar is happening in amateur radio. Some national societies feel they must appeal to a wider range of interests. After all, they have to grow; there are jobs at stake, and no future in depending on the dwindling ranks of G3s



and 4s for their income. The answer is obvious – it's the internet. It appeals to everyone, especially the youngsters.

There is plenty of evidence that national radio societies are preoccupied with membership numbers, and are quite prepared to compromise on fundamentals. We have ARRL openly promoting internet modes and, only last month, praising the role of EchoLink in letting HQ staff keep in touch with emergency nets in Texas. That's not amateur radio, any more than phone-patch is amateur radio. Closer to home, we have RadCom, with reviews of weather stations and internet audio devices, looking more like Popular Electronics than the amateur radio magazine it once was. There's a weather station here as one of the raffle prizes, but it says "wireless" on the box, so it must be OK.

At the 1996 IARU Region 1 Conference in Tel Aviv there was a proposal to encourage the further integration of amateur radio and the internet – what the IRTS delegation felt was the equivalent of turkeys voting for Christmas. IRTS was the only Region 1 society to vote against integrating amateur radio and the internet.

At the 1999 conference in Lillehammer, Ireland and Iceland were the only countries to oppose the abolition of the morse test. The ability to communicate, by ear, with CW used to be the one thing that set amateur radio apart from all other radio services. We are the custodians of the code – if we don't fight to preserve it, no one else will.

CW is not just another data mode, as some distinguished contesters have claimed. Sure, anyone can devalue it by decoding it with software, but that does not, in itself, make it a data mode. And yet we, collectively, have done away with the CW test as a condition for licensing. Why? – to make it easier for newcomers to get licences. And yes, there are more licences, but is there more activity? Probably not. If you want to be a juggler, you learn to juggle. If you want to be a comedian, you tell jokes. If you want to be a radio amateur, you learn CW and get on the air.

Of course, people who go on and on about this are probably old and grumpy. They're only half right, because I'm not old, well not too old, but boy am I grumpy! I am proud of the way IRTS voted. Regardless of how other societies saw it at the time, IRTS was trying to

maintain standards, rather than dumb-down amateur radio. Does anyone here believe standards have been improved by EchoLink, APRS, D-Star and no-code licences?

I acknowledge the good work done by national societies. That's why I'm a member of ARRL, RSGB and IRTS, and looking forward to half-price RadCom in a couple of years. However, to me, it is inexcusable of some societies to willingly accept the internet as a replacement for RF. It seems that any new technology is instantly embraced as if we, the amateurs, had the right to adopt it in any way we see fit – and still call it amateur radio. Before long we will likely hear claims that radio amateurs were internet pioneers.

Look at what seems to be "normal" these days.

In contests, we have spotting. It is web-based and used, within the rules, to find multipliers in the major contests. Here we have an independent, 100% reliable communications mode – a professional mode used in parallel with amateur band RF to improve scores. That's not amateur radio.

What's even more depressing, to me at least, is that some contest organisers assume, by default, that all contesters use spotting networks. I don't, I can find new stations to work all by myself. It seems the original justification was that spotting networks were hosted on packet cluster, which was developed by amateurs. That may have had some relevance 15 years ago, but it has none now.

And then there is remote control. When you hear of an operator in California openly firing up his station in Prince Edward Island, 3000 miles away, to hand out Canadian multipliers, you don't need to be a genius to realise that something isn't quite right – and yet it's been happening for years. We don't allow repeaters in contests, so why do we allow remote stations, which are no more than private repeaters, networked via the internet. I don't see a significant difference between remote control operation and what Don Millar used to do.

The internet is a communications weapon of mass destruction. For most people or businesses it has replaced telex, fax, and short-wave broadcasting. It is well on the way to replacing the telephone, and per-

haps even amateur radio. It has nothing to do with amateur radio; it is a separate technology.

Before long, everyone will have access to cheap, or even free, worldwide person-to-person communications. And where will that leave amateur radio? What school-boy would bother with it while it looks just the same as the internet – only slower and less reliable? Amateur radio has little chance of survival as a separate identifiable radio service in the context of integration with the internet. Rather, we must emphasise the differences between it and the internet.

Over the years I have been involved with various special-event stations open to the public. My experience has been that no one pays any attention to someone sitting in front of a radio or computer with a pair of headphones and a mike, no matter what country they're talking to – we can all do that at home with Skype. But play morse code over the speakers and the reaction is instant – you are bombarded with questions. "Can you understand that?" and "What are they saying?"

For my own part, I enjoy the internet. I use it every day, and could hardly imagine not having it. But I know it's not amateur radio.

The FOC has international influence way beyond its numbers. I hope the Club and its individual members will use their influence to defend amateur radio, to fight anything that replaces RF between the operators concerned, and to find new ways to encourage newcomers to use CW on the air.

I'd like to acknowledge some people who helped me along the way. I owe a lot to Barney Patterson G13KYP, former President of both RSGB and IRTS. Barney organised theory classes and invited all new licensees to field day outings in the 1960s – and that's what gave me the taste for CW. Thanks also to the Five Star DXers Association for including me on their teams to 3B9C and 3B7C in the Indian Ocean: to Seamus McCague EI8BP who helped me to get started on SD, and to all SD users out there for your encouragement and support over the years.

Once again, congratulations to FOC on your 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thank you for this great honour you have granted me.

# Galway VHF Group

## Ballycurrin Lighthouse

### Activation

### 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Members the Galway VHF Group activated Ballycurrin Lighthouse on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

Situated on the shore of Lough Corrib, this is the only inland lighthouse in Europe and is in a remarkably well preserved state. It is approximately 22 ft high, made from granite blocks and has a spiral staircase, made of rock slabs, around the outside. The roof is made from a millstone. The top 7 foot section was used to burn timber as a beacon.

The Lighthouse was built in the late 1700's by Henry Lynch, who, because of his love of sailing, required a marker point and quay to get provisions from Galway transported in by the Cong Steamer.

Beside the lighthouse is a boathouse which has a stone engraved with "Erected by Henry Lynch Esq. A.D. 1772".

The old boat house still remains but has been converted into a summer residence. The remains of the quay are still evident and used by local fishermen.

With a little work it would be possible to extend the quay out to accommodate larger cruisers.

Joe, EI3IX, John, EI7FAB, and Steve EI5DD, made an early start at 9am.

The first task was to get up and running on 40 metres. Steve and John made up the 40 metre antenna while Joe assembled the station. Lengths of wire were cut, according to calculations, and the antenna was hoisted aloft between the lighthouse and a conveniently placed tree.

The MFJ antenna analyser was attached to the coaxial feeder and the antenna was found to be a little too long.

After dropping the antenna a few inches were removed and, on hoisting up once again, the antenna matched perfectly across the band.



**John EI7FAB**  
**Rigging the 80m antenna**

Joe fired up the generator and started calling using the Galway VHF Group callsign EI4ALE/P.

Conditions were not good for local working on 40 metres and, despite the reduction in height of the antenna, no Irish stations were heard although many European stations were worked.

The IRTS news was not audible on 40 metres so it was decided that a call in on the 80 metre news was in order.



**Joe EI3IX, John EI7FAB & Steve EI5DD**

Whilst Joe was working the 40 metre band, work was in progress on the 80 metre dipole. Half an hour before the 80 metre news the 80 metre dipole was ready for hoisting. Initial checks showed that, once again, the antenna was too long.

A large portion of wire was removed from both ends and resonance was achieved on 3.660 MHz.

The antenna was hoisted with a bit of a dog-leg on one end but despite this, the band sounded good even before it was at full height.

EI4DC was the first station worked on 80 metres and reports were good which was an encouraging start.

The news came in strength nine with little band noise at mid-day.

EI4ALE/P was called in second after the news which meant that the signal had to be good into Dublin and therefore probably equally well around the rest of the country.

After moving up to 3.665 a mini pile up was generated. All stations came in at strength nine and this was probably due to the fact that the 80 metre antenna was at approximately 25 ft above a very good counterpoise of wet ground on the shores of Lough Corrib.

Stations continued to come in well from the UK as well as Ireland for the next period of time.

As the activity tailed off it was decided to re-activate the 40 metre band.

*(Continued on page 15)*



(Continued from page 14)

The 40 metre band was still not fantastic but a few good contacts were made into the UK and also into Europe.

Band conditions did not improve so it was decided to close the station at 3 pm.

### Equipment Used

Having tested the equipment at this site, all was found to be functioning well and this equipment will be used for future operations.

The Garry O'Hanlon generator performed well after a little TLC at the start of the event. Being a two-stroke generator, ignition noise was a problem but the DSP filtering and the noise blanker on the FT100D seemed well capable of reducing it to a minimum.

Time was against us for putting the G4HOL loop antenna which is EI5DD's favoured antenna for short skip working but perhaps next time it will be used.

This loop antenna is extremely good for NVIS working and EI5DD has the WAB awards as a result of its use.

The Galway VHF Group intend operating from this site more often and also for the Lighthouse on the Air events if inland lighthouses are acceptable.

This is the first time this lighthouse has been put on the map through the medium of Amateur Radio so these contacts are quite unique.

The Galway VHF Group wish to thank all of the stations that gave us a call after the news and of course Joe, EI3IX, John, EI7FAB, and Steve, EI5DD, who made the activity possible.

### QSL Cards

Anyone who made contact with EI4ALE/P will be receiving a special QSL card with a picture of Ballycurrin Lighthouse and surrounding area.



**Joe EI3IX**  
**Operating on 80 metres**

## South Dublin Radio Club visit Radio Museum in Howth

On Saturday 25th October, Tony (EI5EM), John (EI7JG) and Pat Herbert, the curator, had the pleasure of welcoming members of South Dublin Radio Club to the vintage radio museum in Howth.

The museum is the meeting place of the Howth Martello Radio Group (EI0MAR). A great time was had by all and Pat Herbert entertained everybody in his own inimitable way by relating the history of the tower and of the development of radio.

He illustrated his presentation by referring to many of the exhibits on display.

Mike Staunton (EI3DY) was among the visitors. As it happened, the museum has a recording of the historic QSO that Mike had in November 1983 with Owen Garriott (W5LFL) aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

That QSO took place from the RTE museum in Rathmines, using the callsign EI0RTS. Mike received a round of applause from those present when the recording of the QSO was played again, twenty five years after the historic QSO took place.

On 12th October last, Owen Garriott's son Richard Allen Garriott became a space-tourist astronaut when he was a passenger aboard Soyuz TMA-13 to spend 12 days on the International Space Station.

Sadly, the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas on re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere in February 2003, killing all seven crew members.

EI0MAR is QRV on most weekends throughout the year and the museum is open during the winter months from 11 am until 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. If any radio club or group would like to pay a visit to the museum, it can be arranged by sending an email to [tony@ei0mar.org](mailto:tony@ei0mar.org) or through the Howth Martello Radio Group's web site [www.ei0mar.org](http://www.ei0mar.org).



**Howth Martello Tower**  
**Home of the radio museum and Howth Martello Radio Group EI0MAR**



**Tony EI5EW at EI0MAR**



**Museum Curator Pat Herbert**

## Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,**  
**Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.**

**[ei8jk@amsat.org](mailto:ei8jk@amsat.org)**



# IOTA Contest Provisional Results 2008

## by Joe Ryan EI7GY

One of the many award programmes available to radio amateurs is the IOTA ("Islands On The Air") award programme. IOTA activations take place on a regular basis throughout the year, however the IOTA Contest – held on the last weekend of July every year – must surely be the high point for IOTA award chasers. The IOTA Contest is also growing in popularity among serious and not-so-serious contesters.

The IOTA Contest started in a small way in 1993 as an SSB-only contest promoted by the RSGB, the stated aim being to "... promote contacts between stations in qualifying IOTA island groups and the rest of the world, to encourage expeditions to IOTA islands, and to enhance the amateur spirit particularly between British Isles stations and those in other countries".

Over the years, the contest has grown in popularity. Since 1994 it has been a multimode (SSB and/or CW) contest, it is now more international, with the reference to the "British Isles" long since forgotten, and it has become one of the larger international contests in the contest calendar although still with a strong European flavour.

This year there were over 1,800 entries in the contest of which, interestingly enough, over 70% were mainland ("non-island") stations. Of the 500 or so island stations which submitted logs, almost 90% were on European islands.

Logs from 151 unique island groups were received, representing just a small portion of the 1,164 island groups in the IOTA Programme, however based on previous experience, the number of unique island groups activated at some stage during the contest was probably more like 300.

### The Results

At the time of writing, provisional results have been published which show that the highest score was achieved by the Bristol Contest Group, operating from Jersey, using the call sign GJ6YB.

After a small scale expedition to Jersey last year, the Bristol Contest Group were back this year with a full-scale entry, and their efforts clearly paid off.

The Bristol Contest Group have been entering the IOTA contest for more than 10 years, with operations from Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Curacao and (in conjunction with the East Cork Radio Group) Bere Island from where they were overall winners in 2005 using the callsign EJ2MT.

The second highest score was achieved by The Manx Kippers operating from the Isle of Man with the call sign MD4K, followed closely by a team of Estonian operators (ES2Q) on Keri Island and a German group (DR6IOTA) on Usedom Island.

With numerous different categories – e.g. DXpedition/Fixed, Island/World, Single-op/Multi-op, Assisted/Unassisted, 12 hour/24 hour, CW/SSB/Mixed and high/low/QRP power – the contest results can be parsed and analysed in many ways.

Fortunately, the presentation of the results is done in a way that allows filters to be set and so permit the results of individual categories to be easily shown.

The link to the IOTA results web page is shown at the end of this page.



**Leading EI/GI Station in IOTA Contest 2008**  
**EJ0GI operating from Inis Oirr**

Tom EI7HT, Mike EI3DY, Nicki EI9JF, Alan GI0PCU, Bill GI3MMF, Gerry GI0RTN, Daniel EI9FHB and Dave GI8SKN

### EI and GI Entries

Contest logs were submitted by 18 EI and 4 GI stations. Of these, the clear leader in the total scores table was the combined team from South Dublin Radio Club and City of Belfast Amateur Radio Society, who operated from Inis Oirr using the call sign EJ0GI. The same group has been on Inis Oirr for the past 5 years, but this year's score was their highest and gave them 6<sup>th</sup> place in the hotly contested "IOTA DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, High Power" category. You can read the full story of their operation in the September 2008 issue of Echo Ireland.

The other multi-op groups were Dundalk Amateur Radio Society (EI0W), operating from Clogherhead, and two groups on Rathlin Island – GI0MPG and GI3YS.

Full provisional results for all the EI and GI stations are shown on the page opposite.

### IRTS Trophies

The importance of the IOTA contest for Irish contesters is reflected in the fact that IRTS has three trophies to be competed for by IOTA contest participants:

- **IRTS IOTA Trophy**, for the leading island (EJ) DXpedition station
- **IRTS DX Trophy**, which is awarded to the leading EI single operator in the contest
- **Hal Hodgens Trophy**, given to the highest scoring EI station in the 12 hour CW section

### Web Links

**Full 2008 IOTA Contest Results:**

[www.iotacontest.com/contest/iota/2008/finalScore.php](http://www.iotacontest.com/contest/iota/2008/finalScore.php)

**IOTA 2008 results for EI/EJ and GI stations:**

[www.irts.ie/iota](http://www.irts.ie/iota)

**IOTA Programme:** [www.rsgbiota.org](http://www.rsgbiota.org)

## EI/GI IOTA Contest Provisional Scores 2008

Position in category	Call Sign	IOTA Ref	Location	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
<b>IOTA DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, High Power</b> (IOTA DXPN MS MIX 24H HP)						
6	EJ0GI	EU006	Inis Oirr	2,088	383	5,377,320
13	GI0MPG	EU122	Rathlin	1,697	230	2,216,970
<b>IOTA DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA DXPN MS MIX 24H LP)						
8	GI3YS	EU122	Rathlin	989	201	1,353,735
<b>IOTA Fixed, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX MS MIX 24H HP)						
10	EI0W	EU115	Ireland	1,773	248	2,414,280
<b>IOTA DXpedition, Single-Op Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 24 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA DXPN SOU MIX 24H LP)						
5	EI/DK2AT/P	EU115	Ireland	297	25	33,075
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, Mixed Mode, 12 hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOA MIX 12H HP)						
3	EI3IO	EU115	Ireland	584	109	456,492
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 24 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU MIX 24H LP)						
6	EI4II	EU115	Ireland	183	59	81,243
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU MIX 12H LP)						
13	GI0KVQ	EU115	Ireland	99	21	19,089
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 24 hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 24H HP)						
7	EI9HX	EU115	Ireland	1,140	144	1,074,816
8	EI2II	EU115	Ireland	638	134	613,452
9	EI8GS	EU115	Ireland	847	83	391,179
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 24 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 24H LP)						
7	GI7AXB	EU115	Ireland	498	49	117,306
13	EI2CL	EU115	Ireland	59	43	34,443
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 12 hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 12H HP)						
10	EI4DJB	EU115	Ireland	138	55	67,650
12	EI5GM	EU115	Ireland	253	24	28,296
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 12H LP)						
3	EI7CC	EU115	Ireland	334	98	244,020
5	EI4GXB	EU115	Ireland	366	75	184,050
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, SSB, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOA SSB 12H LP)						
2	EI3HA	EU115	Ireland	167	56	71,736
5	EI7JR	EU115	Ireland	111	34	23,970
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, CW, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU CW 12H LP)						
4	EI/W5GN	EU115	Ireland	514	75	226,350
6	EI4CF	EU115	Ireland	475	74	206,682
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, CW, 24 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOA CW 24H LP)						
1	EI9ES	EU115	Ireland	216	88	163,680

## Spectrum Policy

The report of a Working Group on Spectrum Policy established in 2007 was published on Friday 12 September by the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources and is open for public submissions until 28 November 2008.

The purpose of the report is to review the current system of spectrum management with the aim of developing a national spectrum strategy that will be sufficiently flexible to accommodate technological developments as well as supporting and promoting innovation, research and development.

Radio experimenters will be pleased to note that in the context of Drivers of change in Spectrum Management the section on Social, Cultural and Research Factors states

“Spectrum reserved for use by amateurs or for scientific research purposes is vital in helping to ensure an ongoing interest in technology and in furthering our understanding of radio propagation and communications.”

The Society will, however, be examining the report in detail, particularly in the light of an international trend for a more flexible management of the frequency spectrum, so that an appropriate response may be prepared and submitted before the deadline of 28 November, 2008.

Responses may be e-mailed to Spectrum-PolicyConsultation@dcenr.ie

The full paper is available on the Department's website at [www.denr.gov.ie/communications](http://www.denr.gov.ie/communications)

### DXCC 'End of Year' reminder

"In order to appear in the printed DXCC 'Annual and Honor Roll' listings your submission must be postmarked on or by Wednesday, December 31, 2008.

"The DXCC Annual List is scheduled for publication in the 2008 DXCC Yearbook. In order for your callsign to appear your total for an active award must increase by, at least, one credit. You do not have to reach the next endorsement level. If you made a submission in 2008 and would like to have an award appear in the list that is not yet activated, you can contact DXCC to activate the award and receive the certificate.



# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

## 80 Metres Counties Contest - January 1st 2009

### 1 General:

All entrants must be fully paid up members of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society.  
This does not apply to stations outside EI.

### 2 Date and Time:

2.1 From 14:00 to 17:00 UTC on January 1st 2009.

### 3 Sections:

- 3.1 a) SSB only Fixed  
b) SSB only portable – 100w max.  
SSB Field Day Restricted Section rules apply  
c) SSB/CW fixed.  
d) SSB/CW portable – 100w max.  
SSB Field Day Restricted Section rules apply  
e) SWL – see Section 8 of General Rules
- 3.2 Whether portable or fixed, entrants must operate from a single location for the duration of the contest.

### 4 Modes and Frequencies:

- 4.1 SSB and CW. A station may be worked on both modes - except in the SSB Only sections.
- 4.2 Only one signal may be transmitted at a time.
- 4.3 QSOs with the same station on different modes must be separated by at least three other QSOs.
- 4.4 The IARU Region 1 Band Plan should be observed, and in addition:
- CW contacts should be made only in the recognised CW end of the band
- As this is a local contest, no operation should take place where the Band Plan indicates priority for intercontinental operation
- 4.5 Frequencies:  
CW 3510-3560; SSB 3600-3650 & 3700-3775

### 5 Exchange:

- 5.1 Exchange report, serial number (starting 001 for the first contact) and county e.g. 59001, Wicklow.

### 6 Special Rules for Counties Contests:

- 6.1 At the discretion of the Contest Manager, entries from stations with poor-quality signals (too wide, overdriven, distorted etc.) will not be eligible for any award and will be treated as check logs.

### 7 Scoring:

#### 7.1 For entrants in EI/GI:

Any County in EI/GI	4 points
Contacts outside EI/GI	1 point

#### 7.2 Entrants outside EI/GI:

Each contact with EI/GI 4 points

- 7.3 The final score is the total number of points multiplied by the total number of EI/GI counties worked.  
In the SSB/CW sections, counties only count once.

### 8 Documentation:

- 8.1 Submitted logs should be legible. Accepted formats are handwritten, typed, computer print, or ASCII text files on disk or by email.
- 8.2 A summary sheet should show:
- Station location.
  - Section entered (One section only – do not leave blank).
  - Final claimed score.
  - Equipment used.
  - Name(s) and call sign(s) of operator(s).

### 9 Awards:

- 9.1 An award will be made to the leading EI station in each section.
- 9.2 An award will be made to the leading station outside EI in each section.
- 9.3 A Participation Certificate will be sent to everyone submitting a log.

### 10 Entries:

- 10.1 Entries, which must be received by the Contest Manager not more than 30 days after the event, should be sent to [contestmanager@irts.ie](mailto:contestmanager@irts.ie)  
Entries being sent by post should be sent directly to the Contest Manager at QTHR.



Steve White G3ZVW  
SSB outside EI/GI  
Record holder

# IRTS 80m Counties Contest

## All Time Top Scoring Stations

### SSB Fixed

1	EI9HX, Pat O'Connor	12,121	136	31	Jan-08
2	EI4GYB, Roland Byrne	12,060	161	30	Jan-08
3	EI8CE, Aidan McGrath	11,780	125	31	Jan-08
4	EI2JD, Thos Caffrey	11,190	136	30	Jan-08
5	EI5FK, Charles Coughlan	10,500	119	30	Jan-08
6	EI2CA, Paul Martin	10,110	106	30	Jan-08
7	EI7CD, Sean Nolan	9,947	112	29	Jan-08
8	EI9HX, Pat O'Connor	9,240	93	28	Jan-07
9	EI9O, Eoin Fagan	9,210	103	30	Jan-08
10	EI3GDB, Jim Hayes	9,180		100	30Jan-08

### Mixed Fixed

1	GI0RTN, Gerry Lynch	13,440	175	30	Jan-08
2	EI4CF, Niall Foley	10,108	112	28	Jan-08
3	EI5FK, Charles Coughlan	9,912	99	28	Jan-07
4	EI4BZ, Dave Moore	9,856	103	28	Jan-06
5	EI2BB, Jim Bartlett	9,308	103	26	Jan-07
6	GI0RTN, Gerry Lynch	9,045	104	27	Jan-07
7	EI2CA, Paul Martin	8,996	100	26	Jan-07
8	EI2CA, Paul Martin	8,346	87	24	Jan-06
9	EI4BZ, Dave Moore	8,268	77	26	Jan-07
10	EI4CF, Niall Foley	8,138	85	26	Jan-06

### Outside EI/GI SSB

1	G3ZVW, Steve White	9,360	78	30	Jan-08
2	M0WKR, Neil Clarke	6,944	69	28	Jan-08
3	M0DDT, Colin Potter	5,512	53	26	Jan-08
4	G3ZVW, Steve White	5,270	55	26	Jan-07
5	GM8OEG, Andy Swiffin	4,576	44	26	Jan-08
6	G3WPF, Reg Unsworth	3,360	35	24	Jan-08
7	G8MIA, Andy Malbon	3,264	34	24	Jan-08
8	MU0FAL, Colin Fallaize	1,728	24	18	Jan-08
9	GD4HOX, Ted Brooks	1,344	21	16	Jan-07
10	G0MTN, Lee Volante	1,200	20	15	Jan-08

### Outside EI/GI Mixed

1	GM4FAM, Cris Henderson	4,784	46	26	Jan-07
2	G4BUO, Dave Lawley	1,742	23	16	Jan-07
3	G3ULT/P, Reading & District	512	16	8	Jan-07
4	M0AAA, Reading & District	436	12	10	Jan-08
5	G0MTN, Lee Volante	384	12	8	Jan-07

### SSB Portable

1	EI2MRG/P, MRG Group	8,068	72	28	Jan-07
2	EI2MRG/P, MRG Group	6,876	78	26	Jan-08
3	EI2MRG, MRG Group	6,720	73	24	Jan-06
4	EI9FVB/P, Declan Horan	6,100	64	25	Jan-07
5	EI6JK/P, Mark Condon	5,856	67	24	Jan-06
6	EI3JB/P, Nicky Madigan	5,324	65	22	Jan-06

### Mixed Portable

EI7GY, Joe Ryan	6,440	76	23	Jan-06
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### SWL

EI299, Peter John MacDougall	9,990			Jan-07
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**Pat EI9HX**  
**80m Counties Contest**  
**SSB Record Holder**



**Gerry GI0RTN**  
**80m Counties Contest**  
**Mixed Record Holder**



**Niall EI4CF**  
**80m Counties Contest**  
**2nd highest Mixed Score**



# Excerpt from the HX files

## A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

### Excerpt 001 - The First Steps .

My first step into ATV (amateur television) took place in 2005 when I met up with Michael EI5GG, the late Dermot EI2AK, Mark EI9FX, Tony EI4DIB and Jim EI-970 at Dermot's home overlooking my home town of Drogheda, County Louth.

After a couple of meetings at Dermot's home and at the club house of Dundalk Amateur Radio Society EI7DAR I got my first pieces of atv equipment

An old analogue satellite receiver and a Severen side aerial for 1.2 GHz (which is a 38 element beam) from the stores of Dermot and Seamus GI4SZW, a member of EI7DAR.

The only modifications that had to be done to the satellite receiver was to use the remote control and go into the satellite setup menu and change the audio to the 6MHz setting and to disable the 12-18 volts output for the LNB . You could instead solder a capacitor (44pf) across the coax at the aerial to inhibit the voltage as you could install a small preamp at a later stage.

That night I connected my aerial to the receiver with regular satellite coax which was only about 3 meters long as the aerial was in my shack/bedroom/design studio .

So with the TV switched on and the aerial pointing out the window in one hand and the microphone of the 2 meter rig in the other one I called Dermot and he sent me a signal and after a few seconds of aerial waving I had received my first ATV pictures from Dermot who only lived about 5km away and there he was in full colour and perfect sound (P5).

If only all of my ATV experiments would be as easy .

A short time later at a rally in the UK I purchased my first ATV transmitter from Giles G1MFG. The power output was 50mw and also purchased was another aerial, this time a 9 element loop Yagi plus some coax for 1.2GHz.

When I got home I made a sked with Dermot and later that day I sent a signal to him and after a few moments he tuned me in. Also at Dermot's home was Mark EI9FX and he asked me to transmit a signal to him later that night.

Mark lives about 20km from me and my signal was weak as I was still pointing my beam at Dermot's QTH which turned out to be nearly on the same beam heading as Mark's.

I went out to my mast and with my mobile phone I rang Mark .

So with phone on shoulder, armstrong rotator ready , the 50mw blasting away, Mark watching his TV, I started turning , and after a few minutes Mark tuned me in at a P5 but only with his pre-amp on. I was only a P2 with the pre amp off .

My next (DX) contact was with Tony who lives less than 1km from me. Tony was using a satellite receiver like mine to receive me.

I was to have many more ATV sessions with Yony on 1.2GHz both portable and mobile but that's another story.

To date I have always bought my antennas. My latest antennas are a 35 and a 55 element Tonna. The ATV TX units are available as kits . The main 50mw unit comes as a complete board.

There are amplifiers available from 700mw to your wallet's limits (or your governments) .

All the bits and bobs I have bought are powered by 12 volts DC.

You can get some equipment that use 24 volts or 48 volts.

But as I wanted to use my equipment /p without bringing inverters or generators with me I stuck with the 12v.

The TX boards I use came finished with a SMA connector.

There are connectors that you can get to change it to a N type .

It is a lot easier to connect an N to N when you are portable in the wet and cold . I am sure you won't just go out in the sunny days and warm nights would you?

Take it from me some of the best days and nights I had on ATV were the wet and windy ones. Bring a flask of tea with you and some kitchen roll (to dry your hands with ....cheeky)

Even the new TX units I have came as unboxed boards and no DC leads. I wanted to set something up that was for home use and portable so I got some waterproof boxes ( Maplins or your local electrical store ) and some panel mount connectors.

As with any part of the hobby you pick up items as you go along to the rallies or the web.

Most of my equipment I bought off the stalls of these people in the UK and Friedrichshafen rally in Germany over the years.

Their web sites are as follows.

[www.lechner-cctv.de](http://www.lechner-cctv.de) [www.dgove.de](http://www.dgove.de)

[www.id-elektronik.de](http://www.id-elektronik.de) [www.pe1acb.nl](http://www.pe1acb.nl)

You can also google these people on the net

G1MFG, G6NHG Stuart Marshall and Bob Platts G8OZP.

Some terms for ATV

P0 total noise, no picture visible

P1 high noise, weak picture

P2 high noise, fair picture and fair detail

P3 noise visible, strong picture with recognizable detail

P4 slight noise, very strong picture good detail

P5 perfect picture and audio

In the next issue we will look at 1.2 GHz and 10GHz projects

Happy hunting .

Pat EI2HX.

### EI Single Band DXCC Table

		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6
EI7BA	9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
EI9FBB	7		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
EI4BZ	6		X	X	X	X		X		X	
EI2JD	5		X	X		X		X		X	
EI8GS	3					X		X		X	
EI7GL	3			X						X	X
EI3IO	2	X									X
EI3GV	2					X		X			
EI9JF	1					X					
EI9HQ	1					X					
EI6IZ	1				X						
EI4GK	1									X	
EI3EBB	1										X



## EI's on EQSL

(as at Nov 27th 2008)

DXCC Confirmed		Worked All States	
181	EI7BA (+1) Approved	50	EI9FBB Approved
166	EI3IO (+1)	50	EJ9FBB Approved
156	EI4CF Approved	50	EI4CF (+1)
141	EI2JD (+1) Approved	49	EI9HQ
140	EI7CC	49	EJ9HQ
138	EI6IZ Approved	45	EI6HB
136	EI9FBB (+1) Approved	45	EI3IO
129	EI0CZ	44	EI4IS
126	EJ9FBB Approved	44	EI8GP (+1)
105	EI3GYB (+24)	43	EI5GM
101	EI6JK	42	EI7BA
97	EI6HB	41	EI7JN
96	EI9HQ Approved	39	EI2JD
94	EI6AL (+1) Approved	37	EI5IF (+1)
93	EI8IU (+1)	35	EI9HW
92	EJ9HQ Approved	35	EI7CC (+1)
92	EI5IF	30	EI0W (+13)
89	EI9FVB (+5)	29	EI6JK (+2)
85	EI9ES (+3) Approved	26	EI4GXB
83	EI8FH (+1) Approved	25	EI9JM
81	EI1DG (+25)	25	<b>EI9FVB (New)</b>
78	EI5GM	12	EI9O
72	EI4GXB	<b>Worked All Zones</b>	
70	EI7IX Approved		
69	EI2II Approved		
69	EI8GP (+7)		
68	EI/DH0GSU/p	39	EI4CF
66	EI8JR	39	EI7BA
66	EI4GNB (+1) Approved	38	EI9FBB
65	EI7M	38	EI3IO (+1)
65	EI8DL Approved	34	EI2JD
65	EI8DD	33	EI7CC
63	EI4HQ	31	EI5IF
63	EI0W (+10)	31	EI6JK (+6)
61	EI4IS	30	EI6AL
61	EI4HH Approved	30	<b>EI3GYB (New)</b>
60	EI7JN	22	EI7JN
58	EI9JF	22	EI0W (+6)
58	EI9JM (+3)	17	EI9O
56	EI3HA (+1)	6	EI7IW
54	EI7IQ	<b>Worked Prefixes</b>	
54	EI9O (+4)		
53	EI6IL Approved		
52	EI7BMB	870	EI4CF
50	EI6AK	757	EI2JD (+7) Approved
50	EI6CPB Approved	685	EI3IO (+53)
50	EI8JK	619	EI9HQ
49	EI2FSB Approved	608	EI7CC
48	EI7BFB	597	EI9FBB (+25) Approved
48	EI8IQ	482	EI6JK
48	EI6ARB (+2) Approved	465	EI7BA
44	EI5GJB (+9)	396	EI9FVB (+53)
43	EI7IM	354	EI0W (+56)
42	EI5IX	348	EI5IF
41	EI3EBB	333	EI5GM
39	EI6IF	299	EI8GP
39	EI9CF	291	EI9JM
34	EI3JB	213	EI7JN
34	EI1KARG	167	EI8IU
31	EI90GPO	166	EI8DL
29	EI2GLB Approved	115	EI9O
27	EI3GDB Approved	<i>EQSL Report submitted by EI2JD</i>  <a href="http://www.eqsl.cc/qsldcard/eDX100Standings.cfm?SortOrder=C">http://www.eqsl.cc/qsldcard/eDX100Standings.cfm?SortOrder=C</a>	
26	<b>EI5GSB (New)</b>		
26	EI7GM (+1)		
25	EI2FS		
23	EI7IW Approved		
20	EI0CPL		
20	EI2IV		

## 80m Counties Contest

1400 - 1700utc January 1st 2009

## EI DXCC Listings

(as at Nov 28th 2008)

Mixed		160m	
346	EI7CC	184	EI3IO
341	<b>EI6FR (+2)</b>	106	<b>EI7BA (New)</b>
340	EI2GS	<b>80m</b>	
339	EI8H		
324	EI6S		
321	EI3IO		
306	EI2HY		
270	EI2CR		
264	EI9FBB		
264	<b>EI7BA (+6)</b>		
262	EI2GX		
238	<b>EI2JD (+21)</b>		
232	EI4BZ	<b>40m</b>	
230	EI9JF		
205	<b>EI5GM (+54)</b>		
190	EI6IZ		
189	EI8IU		
152	EI6HB		
128	EI8HA		
127	<b>EI9HQ (+13)</b>		
103	EI6AL		
103	EI9FVB		
Phone		30m	
344	EI7CC	124	<b>EI7BA (+2)</b>
338	EI2GS	106	EI4BZ
334	EI8EM	103	EI9FBB
331	EI8AR	100	EI6IZ
320	EI6S	<b>20m</b>	
317	<b>EI6FR (New)</b>		
300	EI8AU		
277	EI3GV		
259	EI9FBB		
253	EI4GK		
229	EI8GS		
221	EI2JD		
197	<b>EI7BA (+4)</b>		
186	EI7II		
177	EI9FE	17m	
177	EI9JF	146	<b>EI7BA (+2)</b>
166	EI7GL	143	EI9FBB
165	EI2CH	15m	
147	EI4BZ	164	EI4BZ
135	EI8IU	150	EI9FBB
122	<b>EI9HQ (+13)</b>	139	<b>EI7BA (+2)</b>
119	EI4HH	126	<b>EI2JD (+12)</b>
114	EI4EX	109	EI8GS
108	EI6HB	108	EI3GV
105	EI9HX	12m	
105	EI1CS	102	<b>EI7BA (+2)</b>
103	EI9FVB	10m	
101	EI3IP	134	EI4BZ
CW		128	EI4GK
312	EI7CC	128	EI2JD
255	<b>EI6FR (New)</b>	113	EI7GL
239	<b>EI7BA (+9)</b>	110	<b>EI7BA (+2)</b>
220	EI4BZ	106	EI9FBB
176	EI6IZ	104	EI8GS
167	EI2JD	6m	
159	EI9FBB	155	<b>EI3IO (+2)</b>
134	EI8IU	104	EI7GL
128	EI9JF	101	EI3EBB
109	EI2IH	2m	
109	EI4HM	No entry	
107	EI/GM4ARJ	QRP DXCC	
106	EI1DG	No Entry	
100	EI6AL	DXCC Challenge	
RTTY/Digital		1439	EI7CC
102	EI6HB	1389	EI3IO
102	<b>EI6FR (New)</b>	1150	<b>EI7BA (+35)</b>
		1131	EI9FBB
Satellite		DXCC Honor Roll	
No Entry		Mixed	
		338	EI6FR/341 (+2)
		335	EI2GS/340
		334	EI7CC/346
Phone		Updates in bold	
333	EI2GS/338		
332	EI7CC/344		
329	EI8EM/334		



## South Dublin Radio Club BBQ

**Jim Holohan EI4HH serves up the grub**

### The Telegraph Cable.

The American Samuel Morse in 1838 gave the first public demonstration of his system for using pulses of electrical current to carry coded messages over a wire and in 1844 its viability for general use was demonstrated when it carried its first message "What hath God wrought?" over part of a 40 mile telegraph line constructed between Washington and Baltimore.

The subsequent success of the rapidly expanding system on each side of the Atlantic inevitably conjured up the vision of using it to connect the old and new worlds.

The vision, after many setbacks, became a reality in 1858 when the message "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to men." was cabled from Valentia in County Kerry to be delivered almost instantaneously in Trinity Bay in Newfoundland.

Use of the service was short-lived however; after about two weeks the cable was rendered unusable when excessive current was applied to it.

A further 8 years elapsed before the service was restored through a new cable, almost 1,700 miles in length and laid by Brunel's giant vessel *The Great Eastern*.

Two isolated villages, Valentia in Ireland and Heart's Content in Newfoundland found fame as connecting points of two continents.

## Shannon Basin Radio Club EI2SBC Sprint Challenge

This challenge is open to all licensed amateurs, experimenters, and short wave listeners living in EI.

The purpose of this sprint challenge is to encourage radio operators to be active and short wave listeners to take the final step towards their experimenters licence.

### 1 General

This challenge is open to all experimenters and short wave listeners who must operate in accordance with the terms of their licence.

- 1.1 Only one contact to be claimed per band with a specific station.
- 1.2 Points will be deducted for errors in the log.
- 1.3 Duplicate contacts must be logged and clearly marked without claim for points.
- 1.4 Proof of contact may be required.
- 1.5 This challenge is fixed and is single operator with no assistance for log keeping etc.

### 2 Date and Time.

Sunday 30th November 2008 from 1400 - 1800

### 3 Sections.

#### Open Section

Only one section max 400W PEP with no restriction on the number, type, or height of antennas.

### 4 Inspection

Stations may be subject to random inspections by representatives of the challenge organisers.

### 5 Bands and Modes

SSB & CW contacts in the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 MHz bands, operations are to be within contest preferred segments as per the IARU Region 1 band plan.

### 6 Scoring

- 6.1 Points will be awarded for each completed QSO as per SD logging Type 6. SSB CQ WPX Country Multipliers on each Band  
IARU Region 1: Score 1-Point  
Other QSOs: Score 3-Points
- 6.2 Points not to be claimed for contacts with competing stations.
- 6.3 Log entries for which a point is claimed to show the following,  
Date/Time/Band/Mode, station worked, signal re-  
sent/received, together with Contact # eg 59 001

### 6.4 Entries

Entries to be submitted as follows, typed, disc, e-mail, or hand written, c/w score claimed, and statement that the rules and the spirit of the challenge were adhered to, and sent to:  
Brian Canning, EI8IU,  
Cloone, Co. Leitrim  
Or e-mail [brianei8iu@eircom.net](mailto:brianei8iu@eircom.net)  
not later than the 30th of January 2009

### 7 Awards

- 7.1 To the highest checked score on SSB  
To the highest checked score on CW  
To the highest checked score on SWL.



Thanks to Christopher Ammentorp

## Irish Castles and Stately Homes on the Air

We recently learned that Steve, EI5DD, has become Co-ordinator for Irish Castles and Stately Homes on the Air. Basically this is an award scheme for working or activating Irish Castles and Stately Homes on the Air.

Each Castle or Stately Home is allocated a number which is given during the exchange of information in order that the operator may claim it for an award.

Not only does the working of an Irish Castle or Stately Home count for the Irish award, it will also count towards the Castles and Stately Homes Award in the UK.

The award scheme will be launched on the 1st of January 2009.

A web site will be set up to show a log of Castles and Stately Homes activated with their allocated numbers. On application for a number for a Castle or Stately Home, a brief history should be given plus a picture to be put up on the Web site.

This scheme should be of great interest to individuals or clubs who enjoy taking gear out on portable expeditions. We look forward to plenty of activity in the new year.

Keep an eye on <http://galwayvhfgroup.com/>

## GI3GGY Retires from 40m News Reading

GB2RS News Reader Jimmy Porter has been reading the RSGB news from his Derry station for over 50 Years. Jimmy whose call is GI3GGY has had to reluctantly step down from reading the 40m news due to his 16 element log periodic antenna being damaged by gales.

As Jimmy can not get the structure repaired he has had to step down however he will be reading the local news on 2m in the Derry area with his assistant June GI4MJD.

Jimmy was always a beacon on 40m Sunday mornings and his presence will be missed by all his friends in EI/GI.

Thanks Jimmy for the great service.

## Results - 2 Metre Autumn Counties Contest 2008

	QSO's	Counties	Points	QTH
<b>High Power Fixed.</b>				
1. EI4CF	19	10	690	Galway
2. EI7T/P	21	11	616	Tipperary
3. EI9ES	8	7	238	Dublin
4. EI3JD	9	6	204	Offaly

<b>Low Power Fixed.</b>				
1. EI3ENB	12	5	115	Kilkenny
2. EI3GYB	10	3	75	Mayo

<b>High Power Portable</b>				
1. EI2GLB/P	42	18	3564	Laois
2. EI2WRC/P	35	16	2912	Carlow

<b>Low Power Portable.</b>				
1. EI6IQ/P	31	14	1680	Monaghan
2. EI7MRE/P	22	13	1170	Mayo

<b>FM Only.</b>				
1. EI4HX/P	20	13	1235	Louth
2. EI3FFB	9	8	168	Tipperary

## Results - VHF/UHF Field Day 2008

	QSO's	Points
<b>Open Section.</b>		
1. EI9E/p	361	212,469
2. EI7MRE/P	37	30,559
<b>Restricted Section</b>		
1. EI7T/p	28	3,854

## Results - SSB Field Day 2008

	QSO's	Mults	Points
<b>Open Section.</b>			
1. EI7T/P	304	61	64,477
<b>Restricted Section</b>			
1. EI3Z/P	698	75	203,100
2. EI2SDR/P	494	65	140,085
3. EI5GPB/P	143	30	18,480
4. EI7MRE/P	77	31	10,354





Pictured recently at the wedding of Ciarán Fagan EI3GTB are:  
Back Row (L to R) Pat Fagan EI8H, Rupert Masterson EI2FD, Ciarán Fagan EI3GTB and Eoin Fagan EI9O.

Front Row, Liz Mulcahy N1FLE, Mike Mulcahy EI8FG (WB1CPJ).  
All 200 guests enjoyed a beautiful reception held at the Cavan Crystal Hotel.

## South Dublin Radio Club

Due to refurbishment of our current meeting premises we have moved our weekly Tuesday evening meetings to a new location for possibly up to a year.

We will be meeting upstairs at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin.

The GPS Co-ordinates are:  
53.29800N,-6.31606W

Full details including a map is on our website:  
<http://www.southdublinradioclub.ie>

## Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, Active from Space Station

Space tourist Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, was very active on the ham bands during his visit to the International Space Station (ISS), putting a particular focus on making contacts with school groups and participants in Scouting's annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event in mid-October.

In addition to making voice contacts, Garriott used the ISS ham station to beam slow-scan TV pictures from space to Earth.

Garriott, a millionaire video game developer, is the son of former Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, the first person to make ham radio operator to make contacts from space, almost exactly 25 years before his son's trip.

Richard is a third-generation ham (his callsign was originally assigned to his grandfather) and he and his father are the first American father and son to fly in space.



## Worked All Scottish Prefix Award

The Scottish Prefix Award is available to all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners for confirmed/heard contacts with radio amateur stations located in Scotland.

Each prefix may be worked in CW, phone and digital modes on each band, giving a possible of three per band.

The Basic award requires a total of 25 prefixes

The Bronze award a total of 50 prefixes

The Silver award a total of 75 prefixes

The Gold award a total of 100 prefixes

### Requirements

Only contacts after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 will count for the award.

Acceptable prefixes:

GM0, 1, 2, etc      GS0, 1, 2, etc      MM0, 1, 2, etc      MS0, 1, 2, etc

2M0, 1, 2, etc

GB0, 1, 2, etc for special event stations located in Scotland  
(QSL card required for proof of location)

GZ0, 1, 2, etc for contest operations from Shetland Islands.

Ambiguous calls such as GM/F5NED counts as GM0 & MM/W5ZE/P counts as MM0

A list of log entries certified by two other radio amateurs under the general certification rule along with completed claim sheets to be submitted for each award.

The cost of each award is £5, €10 or US\$10.

Please make cheques out to "GMDX Group"- only £GBP cheques are acceptable.

Further details and all applications to:

Drew Givens, GM3YOR, 5 Langhouse Place, Inverkip, PA16 0EW, Scotland, U.K.  
or from the GMDX Group web site <http://www.gmdx.org.uk>

## Radio News

### News Editor

**Charlie Carolan EI8JB**

**Input for the radio news  
should be sent to  
[newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie)**

[news@irts.ie](mailto:news@irts.ie) has been discontinued



## Observations from EI3IO on 5 MHz after the first weekend of operation

Firstly a word of thanks to IRTS, ComReg and the Irish primary spectrum users, for their efforts to facilitate the release of 3 x 3 kHz channels in the 5 MHz band for experimentation. My 5 MHz permit arrived by email on 17th October and within minutes of receiving the document I was QRV on the band. This has proved to be a fascinating experience.

The 5 MHz installation is a Yaesu FT-1000, converted using documented conversion details from the United States and UK. This provides the maximum power authorised of 23 dBW (200 watts). I had prepared a dual band 5 MHz/10 MHz half sloper antenna in advance of the spectrum release. This antenna arrangement is essentially one means of using a tower as a radiator and provides a match to the 50 ohm feeder at a height of about 18 metres. I can also use a 40 metre (in length) inverted V doublet with the apex at about 17 metres and fed with 600 ohm open wire feeder.

However the surprise of the weekend was an accidental antenna find! I had been sitting in a pile-up to work VK9DWX on 160m and had started operating on 5 MHz without changing antennas. Stations in North America were worked at good strength when I realised my error.

Tests then showed that on the Atlantic path my 160/80 metre dual band inverted L with a 20 metre vertical section produced better results than the other antennas.

So what is workable? Without a doubt the band with its near optimum NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) properties provides superb and stable communications during daylight hours around the Western European Isles (EI, G, GI, GM, GW etc). At night stations in North America (East Coast and Mid West) were easily workable. Remember the US power limit on this band is an effective radiated power maximum of 50 Watts. Relatively low powers really do work.

One pitfall I found inadvertently was entering a UK net on Sunday morning after the RSGB news bulletin, which was engaged in quite detailed propagation experimentation.

However be aware that UK military stations (cadets) are engaged in these and other experiments with UK amateurs and the first one realises that this is occurring is when a strange call-sign such as MDK603 crawls out of the woodwork.

It's probably useful to listen to the net controller for a time to see whether non amateur/experimenter stations are participating, as it is a condition of the Irish use of 5 MHz frequencies that communications shall only take place with licensed amateur or experimenter stations.

After 48 hours with a 5 MHz permit 12 DXCC countries have been worked including Bermuda, Greenland and Puerto Rico. In all 82 different stations were worked, of these 50% were in USA, 25% in the UK (England) and 10% in Denmark.

The best DX at 7189 km was K5RK in Alvin Texas.

One plea would be to ascertain whether more of the channels available in North America could be released for experimentation in Ireland, especially 5373 kHz, which appears to be extremely popular on the other side of the Atlantic.

I hope to bump into more EI stations on 5 MHz in the coming days.

## New Tower and HF Yagi at EI4GK



Sean EI7CD, Bob EI5CK, Declan EI9HQ, Sean EI4GK, Billy EI7FJ, Peter EI7CC and Jamesy SWL (Photos EI5DI)



# Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

## November 2008

1- 7	Sat 0000 - Fri 2400	HA-QRP Contest	CW
1	Sat 0600 - 1000	IPA Radio Club Contest (1)	CW
1- 2	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB
1	Sat 1400 - 1800	IPA Radio Club Contest (2)	CW
1- 3	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	ARRL Sweepstakes	CW
2	Sun 0600 - 1000	IPA Radio Club Contest (3)	SSB
2	Sun 0900 - 1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1)	CW
2	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona"	Digi
2	Sun 1400 - 1800	IPA Radio Club Contest (4)	SSB
2	Sun 1500 - 1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2)	CW
8- 9	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest	RTTY
8- 9	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest	Phone
8- 9	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest	CW
15-16	Sat 1600 - Sun 0700	All Austrian 160 m Contest	CW
15-17	Sat 2100 - Mon 0300	ARRL Sweepstakes	SSB
15-16	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
21	Fri 1600 - 2200	YO International PSK31 Contest	PSK31
22-23	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 **	ARRL International EME Competition	All
22-23	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest	CW/SSB
29-30	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest	CW

## December 2008

5 - 7	Fri 2200 - Sun 1600	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	CW
6	Sat 0000 - 2400	TARA RTTY M����	RTTY
6- 7	Sat 1600 - Sun 1800	TOPS Activity Contest	CW
12	Fri 2100 - 2300	Russian 160 Meter Contest	CW/Phone
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	28 MHz SWL-Contest	CW/Phone
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	ARRL 10 meter Contest	CW/Phone
13-30	Sat 0001 - Tue 2359	Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	All
20	Sat 0000 - 2400	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
20	Sat 0000 - 2400	Russian Digital + SSTV Contest	Digi
20-21	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
20-21	Sat 1600 - Sun 1559	International Naval Contest	CW/SSB
26	Fri 0830 - 1059	DARC XMAS-Contest	CW/SSB
27	Sat 0000 - 2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/Phone
27-28	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge	CW

## January 2009

1	Tue 0000 - 2400	ARRL Straight Key Night -	CW
1	Tue 0800 - 1100	SARTG New Year Contest -	RTTY
1	Tue 0800 - 2200	SCAG Straight Key Day - SKD -	CW
1	Tue 0900 - 1200	AGCW Happy New Year Contest -	CW
1	<b>Tue 1200 - 1500</b>	<b>IRTS 80 Metres Counties Contest -</b>	<b>CW/SSB</b>
5- 6	Sat 1800 - Sun 2400	ARRL RTTY Roundup -	Digital
5	Sat 2000 - 2300	EUCW 160 m Contest (1) -	CW
6	Sun 0400 - 0700	EUCW 160 m Contest (2) -	CW
12	Sat 0000 - 2400	070 Club PSKFest -	PSK-31
13	Sun 0530 - 0730	NRAU-Baltic Contest -	CW
13	Sun 0800 - 1000	NRAU-Baltic Contest -	SSB
13	Sun 0900 - 1059	DARC 10m-Contest -	CW/SSB
19	Sat 0400 - 1200	LZ Open Contest -	CW
19	Sat 0600 - 1400	CQ UT Contest -	CW/SSB
19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	Hungarian DX Contest -	CW/SSB
19-20	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	UK DX RTTY Contest -	RTTY
26-27	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ World-Wide 160-Meter DX Contest -	CW
26-27	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	YLISSB QSO Party -	SSB
26-27	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest -	CW
26-27	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest -	RTTY
26-27	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest -	SSB

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

## Tipperary AGM

The annual General meeting of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group took place on Wednesday November 5th in Raheen House Hotel, Raheen Road, Clonmel. We will have a report in the next issue.

## ARRL 160m Contest Rule Changes

The 2009 CQWW 160 Meter Contest has undergone major changes this year. [previous director] Dave K4JRB has been very helpful in the transition, and is still working on certificates/trophies from prior contests.

Please be patient if you are waiting for an award, it should be coming shortly.

Please visit the Web site for important information, including the full text of the new rules. You will find records and log info there also.

Here are some of the rule change highlights:

- The dates for the 2009 SSB contest are a week later than usual to avoid conflict with the ARRL DX Contest. This is a calendar anomaly and the contest will return to the last full weekend in February in 2010.
- The start and end times of the contests have been shifted two hours earlier in response to requests from the 160 contesting community.
- The exchange for DX stations has been changed from RS(T) & country to RS(T) and CQ zone.
- A new single-operator/assisted class has been added to permit the use of clusters, CW Skimmer, etc.
- A 40-hour maximum operating period has been added for multi-op entries.
- Provisions have been added regarding remote operation

Please note there has been no change in multipliers or QSO points.

We hope these changes will help to improve the contest, and stay consistent with the rules for other CQ contests. This is a good time to put a reminder on the calendar to update your logging software!



## Two New Ham Satellites to Launch in 2009

South Africa's second ham satellite and China's first are both tentatively scheduled to be launched into orbit in the next several months.

Newsline reports that South Africa's SumbandilaSat is set to be launched by Russia in the December 2008-March 2009 timeframe, while the AMSAT News Service says the first Chinese ham satellite, XW-1, is scheduled for a June 2009 launch from northern China.

XW-1 will have an FM transponder with an uplink on two meters and downlink on 70 centimeters, as well as a digital store-and-forward transponder using the same frequency scheme.

It is planned to be launched into a sun-synchronous orbit.

## SSTV from Space

The International Space Station Amateur Radio Gallery has now started to show pictures received from around the world of the test images being sent by the ISS. They can be seen at [http://www.amsat.com/ARISS\\_SSTV/](http://www.amsat.com/ARISS_SSTV/). The ISS SSTV pictures are transmitted on 145.800 MHz FM.

They should be receivable on an Amateur Radio 2 metre handheld or a scanner radio connected to an external quarter wave ground plane or discone antenna.

If your radio has different filter settings for 12.5 kHz and 25 kHz FM then select the 25 kHz filter for best results.

## Spain gets new 70 MHz and 1.8 MHz allocations

An announcement on the website of the Spanish National society, URE, says Spanish Radio Amateurs are getting access to new 70 MHz and 1.8 MHz allocations.

The new 4 metre allocation is 70.150 - 70.200 MHz with a 10 watts ERP restriction.

Also Spanish Amateurs will be permitted to operate on 1810-1830 and 1850-2000 kHz during specified international contests.

Announcement in English - Google Translation <http://tinyurl.com/5pcs25>

Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles (URE) <http://www.ure.es/>

## Mayo Radio Experimenter's Network

# Mayo Rally 2008

The Mayo Radio Club  
is pleased to announce their 2008

## Rally

In the

**Belmont Hotel, Knock**

on

**Sunday November 23rd**

Doors open at 11:AM - Admission €5

Talk-in on 145.600 (Mayo Repeater)



- ♦ Lectures
- ♦ Morse tests ##
- ♦ Demonstrations
- ♦ Free Car Park
- ♦ IRTS Stand
- ♦ Bring & Buy
- ♦ Club Stands
- ♦ Restaurant
- ♦ Bar
- ♦ Carvery
- ♦ And much more!!

### Traders will include:

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Long Communications  
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JBT Trading  
Sean Martin Electronics  
Gavin's Computer & Electronics

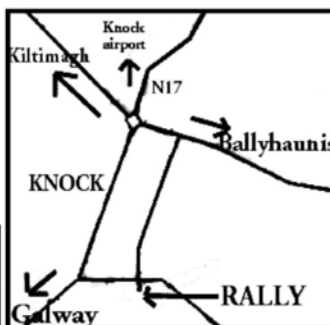
Details believed to be correct on date  
of publishing (7/09/08)

### Belmont Hotel

Will be offering a special rate of €55 for B&B or €75 for DBB single or €45/65 sharing (A 2/3 night stay can also be arranged on bargain terms. Enquiries to Belmont Hotel on 094 9388122

Trade and other enquiries should be sent to the Rally organiser: Padraic Baynes EI9JA Telephone 087 6957154 or email [pbaynes1@eircom.net](mailto:pbaynes1@eircom.net)

Further information can be found on the club website: [www.ei7mre.org](http://www.ei7mre.org)



### ##MORSE TESTS##

Morse tests will be available at this years Rally but must be prebooked. Please contact: Sean Donelan EI4GK Telephone 01 2821420 Email: [donelansean@gmail.com](mailto:donelansean@gmail.com)

## Lisburn Radio Rally 2009

The Lagan Valley ARS Radio Rally will be held on Saturday, 14 March 2009. Bigger and better than ever, the rally moves to a new venue at the **Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough, County Down**. Please note the change of venue..

All the usual Traders will be in attendance and we hope to have some new attractions as well.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Doors open at 11:30 and we look forward to seeing you in historic Hillsborough for a fun day out.

Further details from MI0BPB, GI4LKG or GI0DVU, all of whom are QTHR. <http://gi0dvu.co.uk/lisburnrally.aspx>

## Members Advertisements

**For Sale:** Icom PCR-1000 Computer based communications receiver p.w.o. with LSB, USB, FM, all mode 10kHz-11300MHz  
Contact Joe EI4GX on 085-1601372

**Wanted,** Clark type mast.  
Contact: Charlie EI8JB  
087 6265418 or  
charlie.carolan@gmail.com

**For Sale:** Create RC5-1 heavy duty rotor in perfect condition with controller and manual. Price €250.00  
Jeremy 083-3717710

**For Sale:** RA17L in good clean condition and working very well with manual. RA17L in good clean condition and was working well about 1 year ago but no signals now. Manual included.  
HRO-60 (grey model) with A,B,C,D coils in rack, matching speaker, calibrator and manual. In very good clean condition. Working but not well. Audio and PSU perfect.  
If any interest in any of these call me Pat, EI7CN on 0505 46886 or  
pei7cn@eircom.net.

**For Sale:** Yaesu HF transceiver FT-890  
Yaesu Power Supply FP-800  
Yaesu FT-901DM HF Transceiver  
Microset Power Supply Model PT 110  
Daiwa DC Power Supply Model PS-140  
Power Plus Power Supply Model PP - 1203GS  
Contact Sean Lyons on 086-6051494

### Pennsylvania Becomes 27th "PRB-1" State

Pennsylvania has become the 27th state to write into state law the basic provisions of the FCC's "PRB-1" doctrine that state and local governments must "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio operation and that any restrictions on antennas or towers must represent the "minimum practicable" limitations. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the new law allows Pennsylvania hams to put up towers as high as 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit. It does allow municipalities to impose safety requirements. The new law takes effect on December 8, 2008.

## Power Line Networking and it's impact on HF Radio

In the last few years we have seen considerable growth in the popularity of Power-line network adapters.

These devices, usually sold in matching pairs allow computers to network over the existing household mains wiring. They are proving popular in the market place because they overcome the issues associated with passing through walls that WiFi wireless networks can suffer from.

Powerline Network adapters can often support better speeds than WiFi

The problem for HF radio users with these devices is that they work by generating wide-band HF radio signals which are imposed on the household wiring. The household wiring however exhibits very poor balance and as a result acts much more like an antenna than a transmission line.

These devices can affect HF radio reception at a considerable distance (hundreds of metres) from the boundary of the property where they are deployed.

There are 2 basic systems in use, one is Homeplug standard devices.

Homeplug compatible devices have a system of notching that can be turned on that will help mitigate interference to the HF amateur bands (But will do nothing to protect the shortwave broadcast bands). This system of notching is under user control and will affect the overall throughput of the system. Homeplug devices tend to only cause interference when data transfer is occurring.

The other system is based on the DS2 Chipset.

The DS2 based systems use OFDM and use hundreds of carriers spaced out throughout the HF spectrum. These carriers are present at all times that the devices are powered on.

DS2 based systems also are capable of implementing notching but it is reported that DS2 based systems do not by default implement notching.

The legal situation is murky to say the least and it appears that these devices may be placed on sale but that their actual usage may result in 'unwanted' emissions in excess of the conformity limits

to which these devices were tested and thus presumed to be compliant with the EU EMC directive.

### The EU EMC Directive (2004/108/EC)

The introduction states the following:

(2) Member States are responsible for ensuring that radiocommunications, including radio broadcast reception and the amateur radio service operating in accordance with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) radio regulations, electrical supply networks and telecommunications networks, as well as equipment connected thereto, are protected against electromagnetic disturbance.

This clearly overrides any presumption of conformity testing carried out by the manufacturers, should any device that is covered by the EMC directive found to be causing interference to shortwave listeners or amateur radio operators.

In Ireland the legal responsibility for resolving interference issues under the EMC directive is a matter for Comreg and issues arising that cannot be resolved by informal means should be referred to them for further action. In general responsibility for remedial measures rests with the importer or distributor of the device found to be non-compliant rather than the end user.

I am most interested to hear from anyone suffering with interference issues that can be attributed to these power line network adapters.

More information on these devices along with audio clips is available on line at the following URL:  
<http://www.mikeandsniffy.co.uk/UKQRM/>

The EMC directive is available on line here:  
[http://www.comreg.ie/radio\\_spectrum/emc.543.560.html](http://www.comreg.ie/radio_spectrum/emc.543.560.html)

73  
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**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

## **Annual General Meeting Weekend**

**April 25/26th 2009**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel,  
Athlone.**

**Dinner on Saturday night**

**Rally on Sunday morning**

**IRST AGM 1400 Sunday**

*Hosted by  
Shannon Basin Radio Club*

**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

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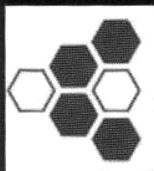


# **10% discount for IRTS members**

As an extra benefit of membership, IRTS has entered into a special arrangement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) for IRTS members to get discounted Amateur Radio Books. This dedicated service is based online so is available to you 24 hours a day. The books are delivered by standard post direct to your door and attract a 10% discount for IRTS Members (Some exceptions apply). The range is wide with titles being stocked from RSGB, ARRL, DARC and many others.

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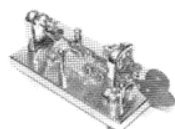


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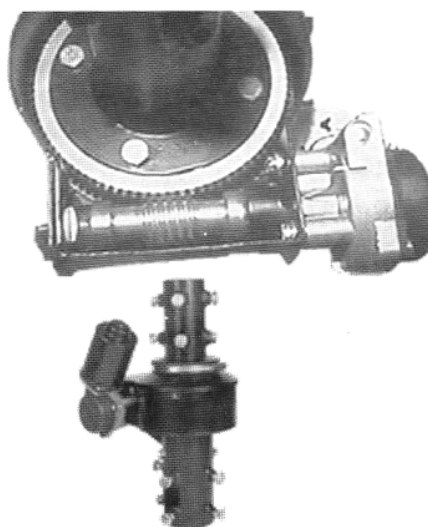
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IC-703.....	€585.00
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IC-7400.....	€1,274.00
IC-756 PRO III .....	€2,275.00

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## New Yaesu Radios

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FT-8900 .....	€312.00
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FT-897D .....	€615.00
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key board and monitor Complete all leads .....	€3295.00
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Kenwood TM455E 45w Yaesu 70cm multi-mode, ..... €299.00  
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Yaesu FT 920, HF/6m, Auto ATU, DSP. Mint ..... €999.00  
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